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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Har Homa, Mount of Olives,
Moslem Quarter, Orient House,
Monday, 9:30 a.m.,
from Beit Agmon, 37 Hillel, Jerusalem.
Fee/info: "Our Jerusalem," 02-571 3337

VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 19935 FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1998 • IYAR 26, 5758 • 26 MOHARRAM 1419 NIS 7.00 (EILAT NIS 6.00)



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Soldiers who killed three at Tarkumiya won't be tried

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The IDF paratroopers who shot dead three Palestinian workers and wounded two others at the Tarkumiya roadblock in March will not be court-martialed, military prosecutors have decided.

The decision was announced last night after Central Command prosecutors said they had reviewed the case and found the soldiers responded properly, given that they felt their lives were in imminent danger.

A squad of IDF paratroopers manning the Tarkumiya roadblock on March 10 riddled a van carrying Palestinian laborers with bullets after it jerked forward at high speed, overtook a line of cars and appeared to run down an IDF sergeant. The sergeant was lightly injured. The deaths sparked days of heavy rioting, during which at least two Arabs died.

After the incident, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan ordered the three soldiers arrested, a move heavily criticized by many officers and soldiers. They were released a day later.

The military investigation determined that the shooting was carried out "under circumstances in which the soldiers believed that they faced an immediate threat to their lives and they acted according to legal regulations and do not bear criminal responsibility for the harsh results of the incident."

The prosecutors thus decided to close the case.

Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham approved the decision and informed Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, the army said.

Mohammed Najib adds: Dr. Ahmed Tibi, a senior aide to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, said of the decision: "This affirms what we had said in the past, that Palestinian blood is cheap. The message being sent by the Israeli government to its soldiers in the field is that you can kill Palestinians with impunity."

Tibi warned that there could be a violent response to the decision.

PA asks Israel to apologize for killing of nurse during 'Nakba' riots, Page 2

last night after Central Command prosecutors said they had reviewed the case and found the soldiers responded properly, given that they felt their lives were in imminent danger.

Indonesia's Suharto resigns

Bloody protests end 32-year reign

By KEVIN COSTELLOE

JAKARTA (AP) — Suharto left the world stage yesterday, handing over Indonesia's presidency to an ambitious technocrat who appealed for help from "all levels" of the country's troubled society.

Suharto left Indonesia in its worst economic mess since the 1960s. Newly sworn-in President Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie was left scrambling to halt the country's downward plunge.

Habibie promised that Indonesia would make the reforms required for a massive international financial aid package in an urgent attempt to restore investor confidence.

"In all modesty I am aware that my task is very heavy. For the tasks to be completed with success, the full support from all levels of society is very important," the new president said.

Yet the day was dominated by Suharto's departure after 32 years of iron-fisted rule.

Suharto asked forgiveness for "any mistakes or shortcomings" in a televised address to the world's fourth most populous nation. Just a few days ago, that would have been unthinkable from the leader



Indonesian students celebrate on the steps of the parliament building in Jakarta yesterday, after hearing that President Suharto had announced his resignation.

who had built Indonesia into an economic powerhouse. But last week's deadly riots and anti-government protests triggered by the country's current economic slide were Suharto's undoing.

Habibie, a close Suharto ally, immediately moved up from vice president to the No. 1 position.

Habibie's swearing-in as

Erekat: Gingrich 'playing with fire'

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday warned US House Speaker Newt Gingrich that he is "playing with fire" and could trigger bloodshed by meddling in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute over Jerusalem.

"I urge Mr. Gingrich to resort to sanity, wisdom, and far-sightedness," Erekat said.

Gingrich and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt are scheduled to arrive this weekend to participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations.

PM wants summit with Arafat, Page 2
Gingrich: Security is the key, Page 8

Dozens of events to mark Jerusalem Day on Sunday

By ELLI WOHLGELER and ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Dozens of events marking Jerusalem Day will be held throughout the capital tomorrow night and Sunday, as the 31st anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem is celebrated together with the state's 50th anniversary.

The big event will be the Jerusalem Jubilee March, taking place Sunday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. along Jaffa, King George, Ben-Yehuda, and Bezael streets, ending in Sacher Park. Many streets downtown will be closed to traffic, and residents are urged to leave their cars home and use public transportation.

The day's events kick off tomorrow night with a concert by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra at the Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem. The concert will be broadcast live on Channel 1 at 9 p.m.

Another celebration will take place at the Beit Orot Yeshiva on the Mount of Olives, and features

Graft and the 'Father of Development'

BACKGROUND
By WILLIAM BRANCH

As Indonesia's strongman for the past 32 years, President Suharto marched his sprawling country from widespread poverty to the brink of relative prosperity.

The years of steady economic growth seemed to justify the title the former army general bestowed on himself in the 1980s: the "Father of Development."

But the undeniable progress and the transformation of his capital from a Dutch colonial backwater into a bustling metropolis studded with gleaming high-rises left open the question of what more could have been achieved without the rampant corruption, monopolies, nepotism, and crony capitalism that also marked his rule.

It was those failings that helped push Indonesia to the brink of economic collapse amid an Asian economic crisis and undermined Suharto's authority, ultimately forcing him to resign as president in the face of widespread protests, civil unrest, and rioting.

And it was another shortcoming — the failure to groom a viable successor — that still leaves him vulnerable as he turns over power to his handpicked vice president, B.J. Habibie, a somewhat divisive figure who may be too close to Suharto to assuage the protesters for long.

For Suharto, who turns 77 next month, the end of a long political run comes barely two months after he began a seventh five-year term.

He had hinted years ago that his previous term might be his last but, like many strongmen before him, he proved unwilling to walk away from power until forced to do so by events beyond his control.

Born in June 1921 to a poor farming family near the ancient town of Yogyakarta, about 280 miles south-east of Jakarta, Suharto acquired little formal education but used an innate shrewdness and an ability to play rivals off one another to begin his rise to political power.

When Japan invaded the country and defeated Indonesia's Dutch rulers in World War II, Suharto seized the opportunity to strike a blow against colonialism, joining the armed forces, and using that foothold to become a career army officer after Indonesia gained independence.

He seemed destined for obscurity in the middle ranks of the army. Behind his placid countenance beat a driving ambition, however, and he managed to rise through the army ranks to head the Strategic Reserve Command in Jakarta, a key unit that held the keys to the capital.

A staunch anti-communist, he used that command to crush a 1965 coup attempt attributed to Indonesia's pro-Chinese Communist Party.

The abortive coup, much of which remains shrouded in mystery to this day, prompted a military backlash against the 3 million-member party and resulted in the deaths of up to 1 million people, as soldiers and civilians vented their wrath against Indonesia's ethnic Chinese minority and settled personal scores.

Once the coup was crushed, Suharto assumed effective power from the father of Indonesian independence, the charismatic President Sukarno, in March 1966. He gradually eased Sukarno out, and replaced him as president the following year.

Firmly entrenched in power, Suharto then launched his "New Order" program aimed at developing the country and putting Sukarno's anti-Western posture behind him.

Suharto inherited a country ravaged by poverty and dependence. Well into the 1970s, more than 60 percent of the population lived in poverty, per capita income hovered around \$70 a year and the country had the dubious distinction of being the world's largest rice importer.

Then came the oil boom. Indonesia, an oil producer and member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, began to reap windfall profits with the steep rise in oil prices. Money flowed into Suharto's development programs, but also into the pockets of his family and friends.

His administration managed to reduce the poverty rate to 15% by 1993 and nearly halved that to 8% before the latest economic crisis. Per capita income rose to more than \$600 a year, and adjusted to purchasing power, stood at more than \$3,000 annually before the crisis hit.

Indonesia attained self-sufficiency in rice, its staple food, in 1984, a major milestone for the son of Javan farmers.

By the mid-'90s, economic growth had averaged more than 6% annually for well over two decades, and billions of dollars in foreign investment was pouring in. Suharto was able to diversify the oil-based economy somewhat, and illiteracy, population growth, and infant mortality all declined during his tenure, he boasted.

At the same time, however, ostensibly charitable "foundations" established in Suharto's name — and exempt from audits and taxes — were raking in fortunes estimated at up to \$3 billion by the early '90s.

In addition, the regime allowed his six children to build a family financial empire worth billions more, largely through monopolies, sweetheart deals and control over an estimated 260 separate companies.

Along the way, the nation of 200 million people and more than 13,000 islands accumulated an increasingly heavy foreign debt, a bloated bureaucracy of 4 million people and massive underemployment estimated recently at more than 40%.

Revenue from Indonesia's 1.5 million-barrel-a-day oil production continued to fuel development, but endemic corruption made it a high-cost economy.

While enriching his family and friends, Suharto during his rule also managed to hold together politically a diverse archipelago spread across 3,000 miles. He often did this through brute force, crushing those who dared to assert autonomous demands and threaten — in his view — the integrity of the nation.

(The Washington Post)

\$195m. US jackpot winner still unidentified

By JIM CHILSEN

PELL LAKE, Wisconsin (AP) — One ticket — out of the millions held by dreamers who waited in hour-long lines or drove into the next state in hopes of winning big — beat Powerball's \$80.1 million-to-1 odds.

A ticket sold in southern Wisconsin for Wednesday night's Powerball jackpot drawing, worth a world-record \$195 million, was the only winner, lottery officials announced yesterday.

The winner's identity was not known.

Pat Penio, owner of the Lakeside Country Store in Pell Lake, where the winning ticket was purchased, said customers of her grocery and delicatessen suggested that if someone locally should win, the payoff should be shared with the community of 1,200.

"We've had all sorts of promises, from lunch in Paris to putting in our new sewer system in Pell Lake," she said.

Don Walsh, director of the Wisconsin Lottery, said there was some commotion at one point when a disc jockey from a Wisconsin radio station ran out of the store yelling, "I won, I won." Camera crews chased after him.

Walsh said the man ran around a corner and police finally caught up with him and, after finding out it was a hoax, gave him five minutes to leave.

It was the second time the Powerball planets aligned and pointed at Wisconsin in a major way: The previous record jackpot of \$111.2 million went to Leslie Robbins and Colleen DeVries of Fond du Lac in July 1993.

The winning player in Wednesday's drawing chose to receive an immediate payout, which means the ticket is worth \$104.3 million. The full jackpot would have been paid out over 25 years — at roughly \$7.7 million a year.

The consolation prize in Wednesday's drawing wasn't too shabby: There were 57 players who matched five numbers, but not the Powerball, for a \$100,000 prize.

Charles Strutt, executive director of the Multi-State Lottery Association, which operates Powerball in 20 states and Washington, DC, said more than 72 million tickets were sold Wednesday in the Powerball states.

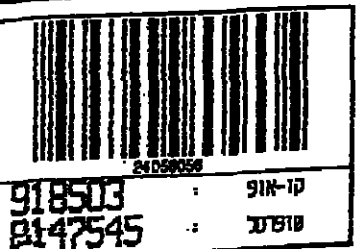
Doug Orr, the Multi-State Lottery's marketing production coordinator, said 138.5 million of the \$1 tickets were sold between Sunday and 59 minutes before the drawing.

Indiana, which is bordered on the east and west by states where Powerball is not played, reported sales of 11,000 per minute.

Powerball is played in Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

It all starts over again tomorrow, when the jackpot shrinks to a mere \$10 million.

SHABAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	6:55 p.m.	8:15 p.m.
Tel Aviv	7:13 p.m.	8:18 p.m.
Haifa	7:07 p.m.	8:19 p.m.
Beersheba	7:10 p.m.	8:09 p.m.
Eilat	7:08 p.m.	8:11 p.m.



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Bar-Ilan: PM wants summit with Arafat

By LIAT COLLINS
and news agencies

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu wants to resume direct negotiations with the Palestinians and hold a summit with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to break the impasse in the talks, the prime minister's communications director, David Bar-Ilan, said yesterday.

Bar-Ilan said Israel would like to see the resumption of direct talks with the Palestinians, which have been stalled since March of last year.

He said Netanyahu raised the idea of a summit with Arafat in talks with US special envoy Dennis Ross.

"I think a summit would be useful if it launched a renewal of the talks. They would be useful to advance the process and perhaps the only way the process could be advanced," said Bar-Ilan.

The call for direct talks with the Palestinians comes as the US administration is apparently nearing a decision on whether to re-examine its role as active mediator.

A decision is not far off, US State Department spokesman James Rubin reiterated yesterday. He added that the administration is continuing negotiations by telephone

but there has been no breakthrough. "We think it is very important for them to find quickly a way in which they can move ahead on the agenda that we have outlined in the past," White House press secretary Mike McCurry added.

He said an agreement must deal with "the security arrangements necessary so the people of Israel are confident that they are moving forward in a peace process that works for them" and redeployment of Israeli forces "so the Palestinians are confident that they are continuing to have some aspects of self-government as they move forward."

Bar-Ilan denied a report in *Yediot Aharonot* that US President Bill Clinton had given Israel one week to accept the US plan.

"There's no ultimatum whatsoever," Bar-Ilan told the Associated Press.

PA negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday accused Israel of stalling, saying there is no point to holding meetings after meetings.

"I don't think any talks will help any more. It's time to stop this game of process," Erekat told AP, adding Israel should now accept the US plan for further redeployment.

Israel, meanwhile, said yesterday it objects to a Middle East peace conference proposed by Egyptian President Hosni

Mubarak and French President Jacques Chirac on Monday.

"Israel objects to the convening of an international conference to which the sides themselves are not even invited and does not believe that it would advance the negotiations," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Israel strongly believes in direct negotiations between it and the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon - which is how agreements have been reached until now," the statement said.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said yesterday his country is considering an Egyptian request for the European Union to play a greater role in helping to jumpstart the peace talks.

The US remains the "main sponsor" of the peace process, Kinkel told a news conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

"But we Europeans see that it is necessary that we involve ourselves in a stronger fashion," he said.

"There is no doubt that we have to consider how we can move forward," Kinkel said. "We can't just sit around and wait for something to fall out of the sky."

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

Beilin: Abu Dis is a good compromise

By ELI WOHLGELER

A controversy heated up yesterday over reports that the Palestinian Authority is constructing a parliament building in Abu Dis, just outside the Jerusalem municipal boundary.

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) said moving the Palestinian Legislative Council to Abu Dis would be a good compromise to the problem of joint sovereignty in Jerusalem. But this relocation was not part of a peace formula he had reached with PA leader Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), he said.

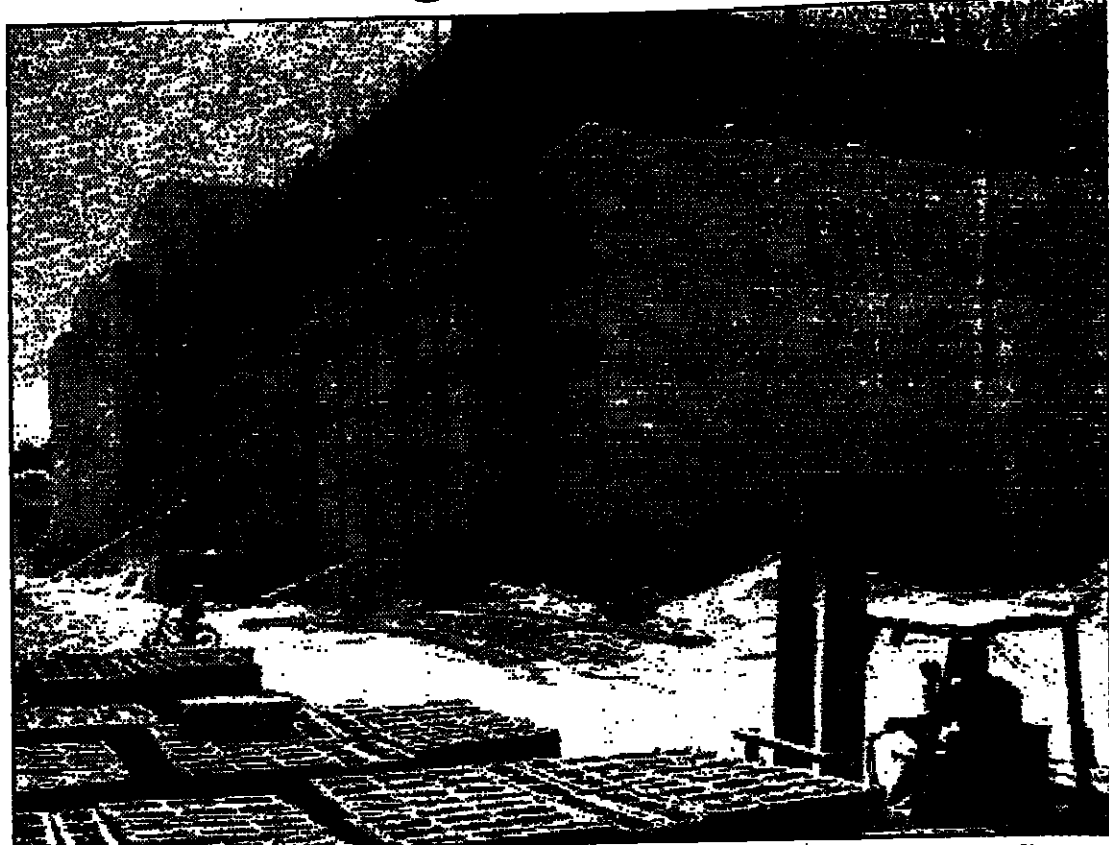
"The idea was that the Palestinian capital would be outside the municipal boundaries of the Jerusalem," Beilin told Israel Radio.

Beilin said this was part of a deal in which Israel was to recognize a Palestinian state, and the Palestinians would recognize an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"Abu Dis is one of the options, it is the more realistic one... I believe that eventually that is going to be the solution," Beilin said.

Leading Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat yesterday was quoted by Israel Radio as denying the reports, as other PA officials did Wednesday. He said they were part of an Israeli effort to undermine Palestinian claims to east Jerusalem.

The reports apparently embarrassed elements in the PA by



A worker operates a forklift at the construction site in Abu Dis yesterday.

(Kevin Ungar)

implying that the Palestinians might no longer be aiming to set up their capital in the heart of east Jerusalem.

MK Uzi Landau (Likud) said the government must intervene and demolish the building,

which he said is part of a long list of PA violations of signed agreements.

"This is yet another step among many in which the PA flagrantly violates its commitments from Oslo, particularly in

Jerusalem." MK Salah Salem (Hadash) said relocation of the Palestinian Legislative Council to Abu Dis would be a legitimate step toward a Palestinian declaration of sovereignty over east Jerusalem.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 355477 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 094698 won the car.

Tickets 331567, 386194, 103810, 283401, 190483, 341799, 313762 and 059347 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 14196, 89201, 38682, 51293, 07749, 96248, 18284, 81172, 81033, 23434, 52258, 69896, 75571, 81160, 67892, 93374, 10595, 44157 and 08377 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 066, 180, 489 and 111 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 83, 69, 72 and 93 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 77 and 97 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 0 and 2 won NIS 5.

ARRIVALS

For the 28th Board of Governors Meeting of Bar-Ilan University of the Negev: Mileda Ayrton - Switzerland; Myra Cohen - USA; Malcolm and Lyn Chalkley - Australia; Sidney and Anita Giesler - USA; Hyman and Irene Kreitman - England; Majorie Schechner - USA; Mina Schechner - USA; Ranan Schechner - USA; Howard Shul - USA.

Board Members and Guests for Bar-Ilan University's Global Board of Trustees Meeting celebrating Israel's 50th Anniversary: U.S.A.: Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, Chancellor; Brig. Gen. (res.) Yehuda Halevy, Executive Vice President, American Friends; Mrs. Sarafina Bier; Mrs. Rena Costa; Mr. Charles Dimson; Mr. Sam Drayman; Mr. Chaim Feinberg; Mrs. Mona Gubart; Mrs. Fanya Gottesfeld Heller; Mrs. Mordchai and Monique Katz; Mr. Fred and Mrs. Barbara Korf; Mr. Manfred and Mrs. Eva Meyer; Mr. Sussman and Mrs. Belle Ruber; Mr. Joseph Shafar; Dr. Milton Shiffman; Melvin Stein, Esq.; Mr. Henry Taub; Mr. Paul Zlotoff. CANADA: Mr. Saul and Mrs. Mira Koshitzky; Mr. Phil Schwartz. ENGLAND: Mr. Conrad Morris. GERMANY: Mr. Lorenz and Mrs. Paula Cederbaum; Mr. Moshe and Mrs. Rivka Gersk; Mrs. Chaya Koren-Orgler; Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Lili Orgler; Mr. Joseph Orgler; Mrs. Zahava Spokorny. SINGAPORE: Mr. Savi Khadi. VENEZUELA: Mrs. Maritza Plonkowski; Mrs. Clara Sonajerman.

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PA asks for Israeli apology over IDF killing of nurse

By MOHAMMED NAJIB

The PA's Health Ministry yesterday called on the Israeli government to apologize for the killing of Zamil Wahidi, a nurse who was fatally shot during last Thursday's violence in the territories.

The ministry issued a statement carried on the Voice of Palestine that charged Israeli forces with "aggression" against Palestinian ambulances that were evacuating the wounded that day.

It said Wahidi was shot while inside an ambulance in the Gaza Strip.

The PA called on Israel to compensate those wounded last Thursday and their families.

The ministry's statement stressed that shooting medical personnel violates international law.

The IDF Spokesman's office said yesterday that it could offer no immediate response to the charges about Wahidi. However, in a statement issued on the day of the violence, it said that light weapons were fired at IDF troops.

"From the shooting there were no casualties to our forces," it said. "Security forces responded with light weapons fire towards the legs of rioters in instances where their lives were in danger."

The PA statement said nearly a quarter of the wounded were under 14 years old.

The statement did not specify the number of people killed during the rioting. The PA initially said nine Palestinians were killed, but human rights groups put the number at five.

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Ivry-Sukenik takes over Ground Forces Command

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ivry-Sukenik took over the increasingly crucial Ground Forces Command yesterday as the reshuffle of the IDF general staff got underway.

His predecessor, Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka, will step into the tricky and sensitive post of OC Intelligence, a field in which he has no experience. Malka said he was about to undergo a crash course in intelligence and he asked his subordinates "to show no mercy on me."

"It's complicated," he admitted in his first public reaction to his promotion. "But people have done it before me and I apparently will do it too."

Malka's promotion surprised many people, but it is by no means a precedent. Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, also had no intelligence experience before taking over, nor did outgoing Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen.

Amnon Lipkin Shahak or Maj.-Gen. (res.) Uri Saguy.

Malka did not have a rich resume when assuming the Ground Forces Command, having spent most of his 26-year military career in the Armored Corps. Nevertheless, he was able to introduce sweeping changes in the armored, infantry, engineer, and paratroop forces he commanded. This included a move toward simulated battlefields, light divisions, and absorption of high-tech weapons.

"We saw our obligation to look a decade ahead and try to find out how we wanted to fight a war, and from this derive the frameworks for force building," Malka said, summing up his relatively short two-year stint. "The most difficult decisions are when we have the technological answers, but don't have enough money for them all. It's a decision of what to do without, not just what to procure."

Malka said during his tenure he made sure to cultivate field officers so that by the time they made it to the general staff, they "wouldn't have grown up looking through a cannon or rifle barrel" and be better balanced.

Sukenik, who has commanded a corps for the past four years, was greeted at the Ground Forces Command HQ near Kastina by an honor guard and trumpets. Like Malka, Sukenik, 49, spent most of his time in the Armored Corps. As a company commander, he was awarded the Medal of Courage during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Malka's and Sukenik's approach to force building appears to contrast. For all of Malka's forward vision in preparing the IDF for the battle field of the future, Sukenik didn't waste time in declaring yesterday that the army needs to make some "heavy cuts" right now.

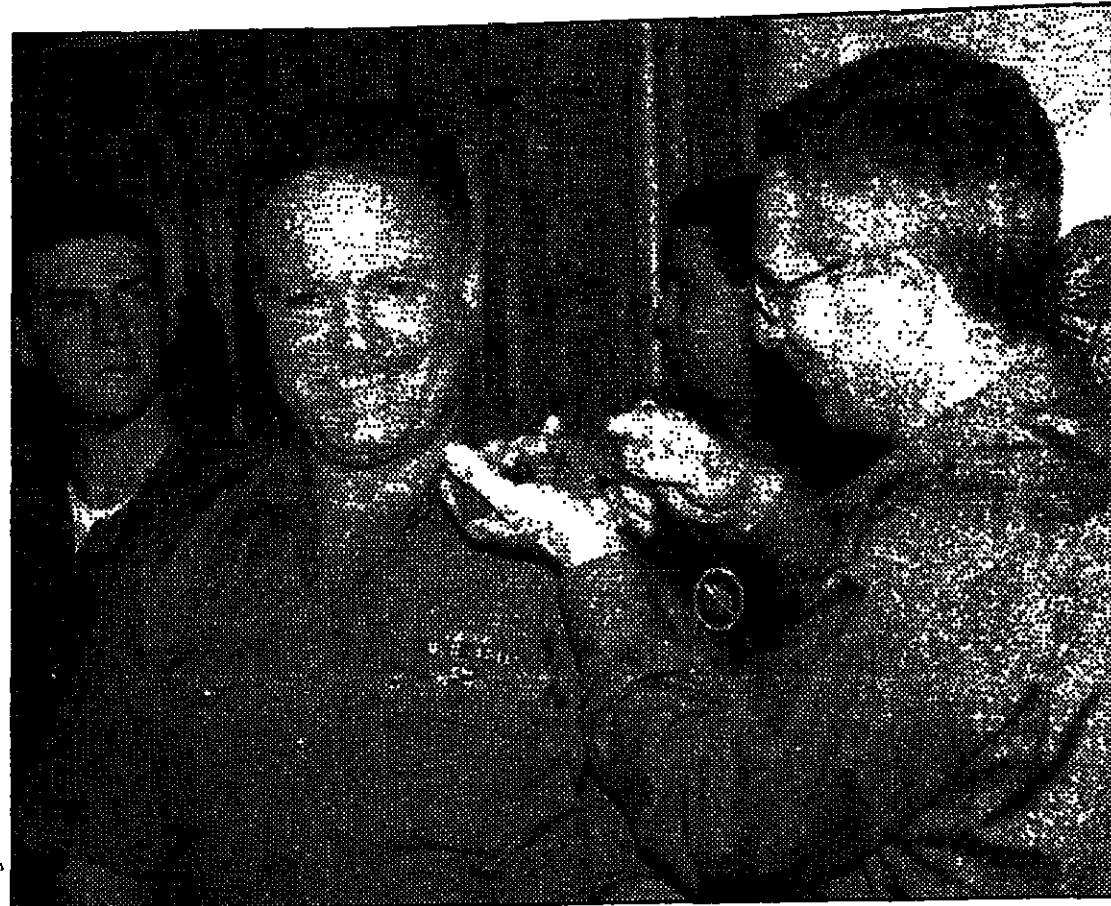
"The defense budget is not growing," Sukenik said. "The

costs are going up, the salaries, training, ammunition, engine hours, flight hours. And the missions are not getting any fewer. It doesn't add up. It's not becoming more efficient cutting positions here or vehicles there. We've already done this. Now we have to make painful cuts. So I am aiming for a change in concept and taking risks and building a different IDF," he said.

"We will no longer be able to improvise and say we'll do our best with what we have. The time has come to take painful decisions, how to train, who will train, in what to invest, and how to organize the forces."

Senior IDF commanders yesterday denied there had been a "war of the generals," saying it was a creation of the media.

"This large reshuffle of tasks in the general staff is natural for a large organization like the IDF," Malka said. "After this, everything will become stabilized."



Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ivry-Sukenik, who took over as OC Ground Forces Command yesterday, receives his new insignia from his predecessor, Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka, who is to be the new OC Intelligence. (Ariel Tager/IDF Spokesman)

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Local Christian leader says:

PM broke promise to US Christians

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu broke a promise to Christian leaders abroad by voting for an anti-missionary bill in the Knesset, a local Christian leader charged yesterday.

The bill, sponsored by MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas), passed its preliminary reading in the Knesset Wednesday.

Charles Kopp, chairman of the United Christian Council in Israel, said the move violated a commit-

ment by Netanyahu last year, when an earlier anti-missionary bill passed its first reading.

"I'm sad the prime minister voted for it, which is absolutely contrary to his written commitment to Christian leaders that he would oppose such legislation," Kopp said.

The earlier bill passed was sponsored by MK's Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) and Nissim Zivili (Labor).

Following a furor over the Gafni-Zivili bill, Netanyahu sent

a letter to prominent Christians abroad, particularly in the US, who wrote to him to protest against it. Among those writing to the prime minister were Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and many fervent supporters of Israel.

The government strenuously objects to this bill and will act to ensure that it does not pass," Netanyahu wrote.

The Gafni-Zivili bill would have provided for a year's imprison-

ment for anyone printing, distributing, or possessing material to encourage anyone to change his faith.

Two months ago, Zivili withdrew support for his bill, following a statement by a wide spectrum of mostly evangelical Christian leaders, eschewing missionary activity.

The Pinhasi anti-missionary bill specifies a three-year prison sentence and a NIS 50,000 fine against "anyone who exhorts another to change his religion."

Clarence Wagner, director of Bridges for Peace, who helped draw up the statement, said the bill was evidently the work of extremists who did not realize that in the light of the statement, the problem they perceived did not exist.

The only proselytism one saw in Jerusalem, he said, was that of the haredim, handing out tape cassettes and pamphlets at traffic lights.

Netanyahu was unavailable for comment on the charges by Christian leaders.

NEWS

in brief

Jaffa man murdered

Haim Rubin, 37, of Jaffa, who had a history of drug offenses, was murdered yesterday. According to police, he got into a quarrel with two men who chased him from outside his home to the courtyard of the nearby Neveh Sha'ananim school, where he was stabbed to death. Police are investigating the possibility that a relative, who had stabbed Rubin during a dispute over drugs more than a year ago, was involved. *Itim*

NBC Europe going off the air

From July 1 cable TV will be without NBC Europe which has announced the cancellation of some of its European and Asian operations under its own logo. The company, which recently went into partnership with National Geographic Television, will continue to broadcast to some 11 million homes in Europe as NGC, with the emphasis on National Geographic's nature programming. Tevel, the cable company which has a long term contract with NBC, says that the American company will make its pitch next week. The package would also contain morning broadcasts by CNBC which is geared to the business viewer. The Discovery Channel, which previously had four hours of programming on Channel 8, is also hoping for the slot, and is offering 24 hour coverage. *Helen Kaye*

Peres Institute to train diplomats

Tel Aviv University announced yesterday the establishment of the Shimon Peres Institute for the Research of Diplomacy and International Cooperation. The institute will not be involved in politics, but will focus on academic research and the training of diplomats, according to the university's press office. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Bar-Ilan to double campus size

Its student body having grown 80 percent over the last eight years, Bar-Ilan University will soon begin construction to double the size of its main campus. The building plans will formally be announced next week by president Prof. Moshe Kaveh and director-general Dr. Shabtai Lubel during Bar-Ilan's global board of trustees meetings. The 270-dunam campus extension will be located at the northeast corner of the existing campus in Ramat Gan. *Judy Siegel*

Petah Tikva schools opening at 10

The Teachers Union will be on strike in all schools in Petah Tikva this morning until 10. The strike concerns a dispute between parents and teachers at the Ahad Ha'am Junior High School in the city. The teachers are also protesting the involvement of pupils in a dispute between the principal and the teachers at Ahad Ha'am. *Itim*

Report: Canada agrees to grant asylum to Arab prisoners held here

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Canada has agreed to grant political asylum to a number of Arab prisoners being held in Israeli jails, pending background checks, according to *The Toronto Star*.

"These are citizens of what is for us an enemy country and Canada has agreed to accept them," an unnamed Israeli source told the Canadian paper this week.

CTV News reported this week that there were eight people involved: two Iranian defectors including a hijacker, four suspected Iraqi spies and two Syrian defectors. A Canadian Foreign Affairs Department official said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had requested that Ottawa offer asylum, according to the *Star*, Canada's largest circulation newspaper.

"In general the story is true, and

you can see it confirmed in today's *Toronto Star*," an Israeli Embassy press officer in Canada, David Cooper, told Reuters on Wednesday. "Beyond that, I don't want to say anything until later when we have a statement ready."

A Canadian Embassy official in Israel confirmed that Canada was approached by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and asked if the country would take in political refugees currently in Israeli prisons as a humanitarian gesture.

"Their admissibility under immigration legislation is being examined. As of this moment, no decision has been made," he said.

However, the official was unable to give any details on the refugees because of the Canadian Privacy Law.

He added that Canada provides asylum for people from many

countries on a regular basis. A spokesman for Canada's Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Rene Mercier, said none would be admitted until immigration officials conducted background checks, which could take several months.

"When we take in people, we make sure they undergo very rigorous medical, criminal and security background checks to make sure they don't present a danger to Canadians," Mercier said.

In the past two months, Canada has accepted 17 Cuban political prisoners freed from jail and sent into exile by President Fidel Castro after Pope John Paul II appealed to him for clemency in January.

Some had been jailed in Cuba for violent offences, according to agency reports.

Marne Rochester contributed to this report.



Historian Ya'acov Katz, a former rector of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died Wednesday after a brief illness, the university said yesterday. He was 93. He immigrated to pre-state Palestine from Germany in 1936. From 1959 to 1963, he served as the dean of the Social Sciences Faculty at the Hebrew University, and was rector from 1969 to 1972. Katz won the Israel Prize for Jewish history in 1980. He is survived by his wife Gertie, three sons, and grandchildren.

Study shows smoking linked to serious eye diseases

By JUDY SIEGEL

Smoke really does get in your eyes.

To the many diseases whose risk is significantly raised by cigarettes, add another: macular degeneration, the incurable condition causing full or partial blindness in the middle aged and elderly.

Dr. Yoram Zolberg, Dr. Mordechai Rosner and Prof. Michael Belkin of the Goldschleger Eye Research Institute at Tel Aviv University reached this conclusion in a survey of eye diseases published this week in *Survey of Ophthalmology*.

The authors analyzed studies

conducted around the world, looking specifically at the connection between eye diseases and smoking.

They concluded that nearly all the serious ophthalmological diseases, some of which end in blindness, are significantly worsened by smoking. Of the 4,000 active substances in tobacco smoke, many of them are toxic to eye tissue.

Cataracts, in which the lens in the eye becomes cloudy and which is the most common condition causing blindness, has previously been found to be linked with smoking.

Now smoking has been linked to a much higher risk of age-related macular degeneration, which is occurring with growing frequency

in developed countries. Compared to non-smokers, smokers are 2.5 times more likely to develop macular degeneration.

The authors also found that smoking is linked with Grave's disease, which is triggered by thyroid problems: smoking constricts the blood vessels and reduces the supply of blood to the eye, making the condition more severe.

Pregnant women who smoke also increase the risk of strabismus (crossed eyes) in their babies.

"As a result of these findings, one must add to the list of smoking warnings the direct damage smoking causes to the eyes," Belkin concluded.

Remand of Harari shooting suspects extended

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded for eight days two suspects in the Cafe Givatayim shooting earlier this month. Dotan Shukrun, 21, of Hod Hasharon, and Moshe Avitan, 32, of Rehovot, are suspected of

firing into the cafe in an attempt to murder Roni Harari, the brother of Yossi Harari, a leader of the Ramat Amikar gang. Eleven people were wounded in the shooting, including Roni Harari, who was lightly wounded. It is the first time

in the recent series of murders and attempted murders involving the Ramat Amikar and Pardess Katz gangs that police have arrested suspected gunmen.

This morning, Shalom Hadif, who is suspected of ordering

Harari's murder, is to have a remand hearing. Hadif, brother of Pardess Katz gang head Itzik Hadif, is suspected of having ordered the killing to avenge the murder of a third brother, Shimon Hadif, in January. *(Itim)*

Kishon River poses danger to boaters, ministry says

By LIAT COLLINS

Recent tests for pollution in Haifa's Kishon River have revealed up to 10,000 times the amount of bacteria for which beaches can be closed as a health hazard.

Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen has written to Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, demanding he immediately stop all water sports, such as boating, on the Kishon, because it is unsafe.

Although there has been a pollution problem in the Kishon for decades, stemming mainly from the flow of sewage and industrial wastewater into the river, schools and sporting clubs have continued to use the waterway, mainly for boating.

"Tests this week showed a very high level of pollution," Ronen told reporters yesterday. "We're talking about a very high concentration of pathogenic bacteria which can cause illness, ranging from dysentery to polio."

The problem appears to have been exacerbated recently by the flow of almost raw sewage and sludge into the river while the Haifa Water Treatment Plant is being renovated.

"The sludge, which should be treated and dried, finds its way into the river and joins the 'wonderful' cocktail from local factories to become toxic," Ronen said. Tests also revealed low-level acidic water and heavy materials that apparently come from the Haifa Chemicals plant, according to the ministry.

In her letter to Mitzna, Ronen said that ministry experts say that physical barriers near the water treatment plant would not be able to stop the bacteria and pathogens from flowing into the river and that no boating should be allowed as long as the massive pollution continues.

A Haifa Municipality spokesman, however, told Israel Radio that the boating takes place in the Kishon estuary and that there is almost no danger there.

Konrad Adenauer Foundation Jerusalem

Separate Worlds - Israeli and Palestinian Views

Gisela Dachs, correspondent of the German weekly newspaper "Die Zeit", wrote a remarkable book: "Getrennte Welten - Israelische und palästinensische Lebensgeschichten" ("Separate worlds - Israeli and Palestinian life stories") The book was recently published by Lenos-Verlag, Basel/Switzerland.

18 Israelis and Palestinians of the younger generation are portrayed in this book. They give a complex insight of the lives of those affected by the Middle-East-Conflict on both sides. What does separate them - what does connect them, we want to discuss with them in this dialogue.

We cordially invite you on May 28th., 1998, 19.00h in the Notre Dame Cultural Center, opposite the New Gate, Jerusalem.

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Sof sof Sofia

SOFIA — Mayor Boris Velanov of Bansko, in the mountains south-east of Sofia, has a clear idea of his role in life, unfazed when asked how he hopes to sustain new hotels reached by potholed, ill-marked, and narrow roads.

"My job is to explain, not to do. And so, the potholed roads demonstrate my Darwinian theory of development — only the best cars survive. This raises the standard of transportation. The roads increase the employment and skills of the car mechanics. The holes are also traffic police and my municipality has no need to pay for real police and radar traps."

Bulgaria is a land blessed with such people — honest, humorous, and optimistic, but there are not yet enough of them at the top. That is my pharaonic theory of its current development — a pyramid with all the dynamic, modern, young, and enthusiastic people emerging at the bottom and center, but still pointy-headed at government level.

The most common word to be heard in Bulgaria today is "privatization." It comes a close runner-up to *shopska*, the ubiquitous national salad, and *rakia*, the national religion (of enlightened drinkers — that's most Bulgarians).

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

from Russia and Germany, visited Bulgaria. What has put a glint in Bulgarian eyes is the click of casino chips. With the Turkish casinos closed under Islamic pressures, Bulgarians (and some Turkish businessmen) are relocating the casino business to Sofia and the Black Sea resorts — Varna is a quick trip by hydrofoil from Istanbul.

On the Thursday afternoon we flew to Sofia, the plane was packed with casino-bound Israelis who seemed disconcertingly happy about spending a weekend throwing money away. Good luck to Bulgaria, but it will be a pity if this extraordinary country comes to mean no more than a gambling den to Israelis.

Bulgaria has two stars — the countryside, including the unspoiled Black Sea coast, and the people. Anyone who grew up in a Western European countryside 30 years ago will be stunned by what we have lost and Bulgaria retains. Fields of cowslips, buttercups, flowering clover, cornflower climbed the hills in clear May sunshine. There were butterflies, a corn-crake croaking, even larks in the clear air. Aurums and violets dripped dampness deep in the woods.

In Borovics, a dreamy landscape of endless forested mountain ranges and ski runs south of Sofia, I clambered down a ravine beside the old wooden hotel, followed a river valley down to a wild grass clearing, and crossed another ridge into a forest. Clouds suddenly descended from on high. In seconds I was disoriented and utterly lost in mist, not even a remote engine noise could be heard, nothing man-made could be seen. It could well be the Jurassic era, it could well be another planet.

Nice, nice

Bulgarians are slowly waking up to the fact that they are on their own now. Maybe because they are basically a rural people, it has taken them longer. In the vast rich farmlands, each large field was being tilled by eight or 10 people, mostly by hand, sometimes with a horse-drawn plow. Each person is tilling just to grow enough for the family.

Privatization is the word, but in government, old state habits die hard. "We get no money from the state," Mayor Velanov said. "We know we must do it by private ownership, by investment. We are developing tourism, and tourism has changed our attitudes — there is no family that is not concerned with tourism. The potential in Bulgaria is absolutely huge."

"Hey — that's up to you what you tell Israelis," he said with a grin, and splashed out the *rakia* one more time before a blazing log fire. "But please — tell them we have a very nice town. Tell them we are nice people."

I'm telling them, Boris. This is the last of three dispatches from Bulgaria. The trip was sponsored by the Bulgarian Ministry of Trade and Tourism and Premier Tours of Israel.

Place your bets

About 12,000 Israelis went to Bulgaria last year, about the same number of Bulgarians came to Israel. About 3.5 million non-transit tourists, mostly

Irish face historic peace vote

By MICHAEL STOTT

BELFAST (Reuters) — Ireland's people vote today on a controversial peace agreement designed to end 30 years of bloodshed and set in motion the biggest political changes in the island since Britain partitioned it in 1921.

The agreement, brokered last month by the British government, would give Northern Ireland an elected assembly where Protestants and Catholics share power and create a series of cross-border institutions with the Irish Republic. In return, the Republic would drop its constitutional claim to sovereignty over the North.

Although uncontroversial in the south and backed by most Catholics in the North, the agreement has bitterly divided Northern Ireland's Protestant, pro-British majority.

They say the pact's provisions to release guerrillas from jail early will allow murderers to savor government instead of paying for their crimes. Protestants also doubt that Sinn Féin — the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) — means what it says about renouncing violence.

Northern Ireland's guerrilla war has killed some 3,600 people in 30 years of bombings, beatings, and shootings.

Opinion polls showing Northern Irish Protestants — known here as "unionists" — almost evenly split over the agreement have prompted three visits from the pact's main architect, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, to try to convince skeptical voters of its benefits.

"What I want to say to people here in Northern Ireland is: Trust me to deliver what I've said. I will deliver and trust yourselves to make the future work," Blair told a BBC Radio Ulster phone-in yesterday morning, after spending the night in the province.

On Wednesday, Blair unveiled a hand-written message to the people of Northern Ireland containing five pledges designed to allay Protestant fears. These included promises that prisoners would not be let out of jail "unless violence is given up for good" and that those who used or threatened violence would be excluded from a Northern Ireland government.

His words did little to convince some Protestants, who have run a passionate "Vote No" campaign



Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble fields questions at party headquarters in Belfast this week. A "yes" vote of below 60 percent would mean the deal is "in trouble," according to Trimble, who supports the proposed pact. (AP)

using the icon of a heart-shaped Union Jack flag and the slogan: "The people with a heart for Ulster."

The "yes" campaign is a campaign of misleading lies and deceit, thundered Rev. Ian Paisley, a long-time unionist hardliner, during a radio phone-in on Wednesday. "At the end of 24 months every terrorist, even some of them doing three or four life sentences, will be on the streets."

Political analysts say the "no" campaign in the North got an unexpected boost when four convicted IRA bombers were allowed out of jail for a weekend and appeared at a Sinn Féin party conference in Dublin on May 10 to rapturous applause.

But memories of that event are

fading and campaigning for a "yes" vote has intensified. Mainland British politicians of all parties have made numerous appearances and there has even been a Belfast rock concert by the Irish band U2 featuring Protestant and Catholic leaders shaking hands on stage.

The latest opinion poll, taken by telephone on Monday and Tuesday for the *Irish Times* newspaper and published yesterday, showed 60 percent of Northern Irish voters favoring the accord and 25 percent opposed, with 15 percent undecided.

Among Unionists, 43 percent were against, 40 percent in favor, and 17 percent undecided. The poll had a margin of error of 4.5 percent.

Most politicians believe the agreement needs a strong endorse-

ment from Northern Ireland's 1.18 million voters in order to work. Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble, a supporter of the pact, has said a "yes" vote of below 60 percent would mean the deal is "in trouble." Opponents of the pact have set the hurdle even higher.

Since Northern Ireland's Catholic minority strongly supports the pact, a weak, overall "yes" vote would imply most Protestants had voted "no."

Rejectionist Protestants might then dominate the elections for the 108-seat Northern Ireland assembly, winning a majority of the seats and blocking any decisions on cooperation with the Irish Republic.

Other shadows also hang over the agreement.

Extremist splinter groups from both Catholic and Protestant factions lurk in the shadows and could wreck the new atmosphere of peace with a well-timed car bomb or assassination.

Police have defused several big bombs, including a 227-kilo device in the town of Armagh, in the run-up to the vote. Paramilitary groups retain huge arsenals and no timetable has been set for handing them in. Arms experts say the IRA, for example, has enough explosive hidden in caches dotted around the Irish countryside to blow up 2,500 homes.

In general, however, the days before the referendum have been calm, with Northern Ireland's 11,000 police and 15,500 British troops keeping a low profile.

Expelled US student kills one at school; two dead at home

By JEFF BARNARD

SPRINGFIELD, Oregon (AP) — A day after being expelled for having a gun, a student returned to school with a semiautomatic rifle and opened fire in the cafeteria yesterday, killing at least one person and critically wounding seven others. Police later found two adults dead in the suspect's home.

Seventeen others also were hurt in the latest in a series of school shootings across the United States.

Shots rang out at Thurston High School just before morning classes, while 300-400 students were attending a breakfast. Witnesses saw the 15-year-old suspect, dressed in a cream-colored trench coat, run through the cafeteria firing his rifle from the hip. He was tackled by a student and arrested about 20 minutes after the shooting broke out.

An hour and a half later, sheriff's deputies found the bodies of two adults in the boy's home in a rural area just outside the city. Lane County Sheriff Jan Clements said the relationship of the victims was unknown, but there were several broadcast reports that they were the boy's parents.

Several students said they knew the shooter as a 15-year-old freshman who played football and had been expelled a day ear-

lier for trying to bring a gun to school. Some said he once gave a talk in speech class about how to build a bomb.

"He always said that it would be fun to kill someone and do stuff like that," said student Robbie Johnson, who knew the suspect. "Yesterday, he told a couple of people he was probably going to do something stupid today and get back at the people who had expelled him."

Also yesterday, in Onalaska, Washington, a 15-year-old boy carrying a gun got on his school bus, took his girlfriend off, and then went to his home and shot himself in the head as her father tried to break down the door.

The boy was in critical condition. No one else on the bus was hurt. The 14-year-old girlfriend was not injured.

Several students said they thought the Oregon shooting was a gag related to student-body election day.

Stacy Compton, 15, said she was sitting at a table when the guy came in and "started going bananas" with the gun. She said she ducked under the table and her best friend got hit in the center of her forehead.

Wrestling coach Gary Bowden said one of his best wrestlers, Jake Ryker, despite being shot

himself, tackled the shooter, got the gun away from him and held him down. His condition was unknown.

Bowden said the shooter had a 22-caliber semiautomatic rifle, a .38-caliber handgun, and military style knives.

"You don't make sense out of this. There is no sense to it," he said. "I think we ought to disarm. If this isn't a reason to, what is? I can flunk a kid and he can walk in and blow me away. Any kid who takes a gun to school — why he isn't put under observation for a few weeks is beyond me."

A school official read the name of 23 students who were injured, either in the shooting or its aftermath.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton expressed the nation's sympathy to the victims and their families.

"I know that all Americans are heartbroken," Clinton said during a ceremony on NATO expansion. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the people who were killed and wounded, and with that entire fine community."

He also called the school's principal to express personal condolences from himself and his wife, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

It was the latest in a series of

school shootings across the country.

On Tuesday, a high school senior shot and killed a student in a school parking lot in Fayetteville, Tennessee, three days before they were to graduate, apparently because they had argued about a girl, authorities said.

On April 24, a 14-year-old boy opened fire at an eighth-grade graduation dance in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, killing a teacher and

slightly wounding two students and another teacher.

On March 24, an 11-year-old boy and his 13-year-old friend opened fire on classmates in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Four pupils and a teacher were killed and 10 people wounded.

On October 1, a 16-year-old student in Pearl, Mississippi killed his mother, then went to school and shot nine students, authorities said. Two of them died.

Freed British nurses criticized

LONDON (Reuters) — Two British nurses whose sentences for murder were commuted by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd arrived home in Britain yesterday.

Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, who were jailed in 1996 in connection with the murder of their Australian colleague Yvonne Gilford, flew into Gatwick airport from Dhahran in Saudi Arabia.

Parry, 39, and McLauchlan, 32, have come under fire for selling their stories to British tabloid newspapers for sums said to be over £100,000 apiece.

McLauchlan faces another trial in Scotland, where she has been summoned to court on charges alleging fraud and theft.

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Economy sours Khatami anniversary

By AFSHIN MOLAVI

DUBAI (Reuters) — The twin evils of inflation and unemployment threaten to spoil the party as Iranian President Mohammed Khatami celebrates the first anniversary of his landslide election victory tomorrow, analysts said.

"Inflation remains a major problem and unemployment will probably rise this year," said Amirhoushang Amini, a Teheran-based economist. "Both issues must be dealt with seriously."

Inflation in Iran's cities was 17.3 percent in the Iranian year to March 20, down from 23.2 percent the previous year.

Economists say the state's estimate is based on official prices for a basket of commodities, but that many residents have to buy goods at higher black market prices.

"We are experiencing stagflation," said Fariborz Raisdana, an Iranian economist, adding that official inflation figures were too conservative and unemployment was set to rise.

Raisdana credited Khatami for battling inflation but said unemployment could be an even more significant problem for the moderate Shi'ite Muslim cleric.

The numbers are daunting. Nearly a third of Iran's population of more than 60 million is aged between 11 and 24 and 800,000 new job-seekers enter the market each year, an official at Iran's Statistical Center said.

Other economists say the number of jobs that need to be created is closer to one million a year. Officially, unemployment hovers around nine percent, but economists say it is nearer to 15 percent and rising.

Khatami, who was elected in a resounding victory on a mandate for political and social reforms, has found his time increasingly occupied with economic concerns.

Oil revenues — the lifeblood of the economy, accounting for 80 percent of hard currency earnings — have been battered by low prices and a continuing depreciation of the rial. The economy remains dominated

by the state, large debt payments loom, and businessmen regularly complain about the shackles of red tape and bureaucracy that hamper their work.

The recent US-EU deal to waive penalties on foreign firms that invest \$20 million or more in Iran's oil and gas industry could spur a rush to invest in Iran's huge untapped gas fields and ageing oil industry which is in dire need of foreign funds.

Economists say it could also help the currency, which is subject to a complex web of controls and has fallen 13 percent against the dollar since January from an already weak base.

But the talk on the street remains prices and jobs.

"After paying my essential bills I find it nearly impossible to save money," said Ali Abbasi, a teacher in Teheran.

"I feel bad for young people these days. The job market is tight and it is almost unthinkable for them to buy a house at today's prices," said Hormoz Latifi, an Iranian businessman.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot 5758

Receiving the Torah in the 20th Century

Shavuot eve, May 30, 1998

Study in English:

22:15 - 23:30 Rabbi Prof. David Hartman:
The First Commandment according to
Yehudah Halevi and Maimonides
23:30 - 00:30 Rabbi Donniel Hartman:
One Torah - Multiple Voices

לימוד בעברית:

ד"ר מנחם לוורבינסקי: 23:30-22:15
תורה קדושה וחד ארץ

ד"ר אלון גוטסטיין: 00:30-23:30
קבלת התורה ברוח ההסתיו

The Beit Midrash will be open all night for individual study.

Shavuot day, May 31, 1998

לימוד בעברית:

ד"ר שלמה סאה (האקדמיסטי העברי): 17:30-16:30
הסודות על מות תורה בשמחה

ד"ר מנחם הירשמן (האקדמיסטי העברי): 18:30-17:30
חכמה בגוים ואמין?

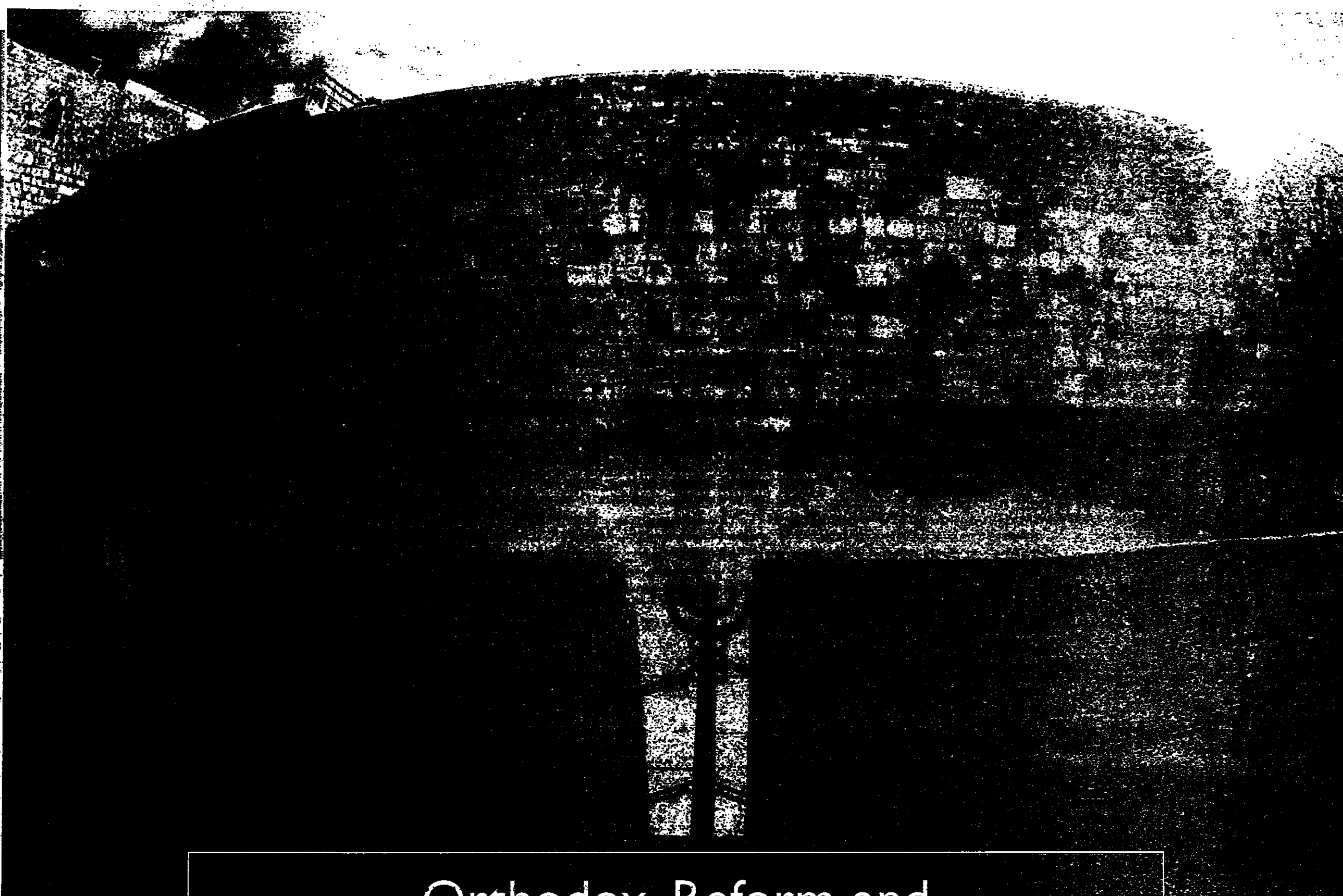
נונים ציון: 19:30-18:30
נעים ורחוק

The Shalom Hartman Institute
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Want to know about
ISRAEL?

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THE JERUSALEM
POST



(Photo by Lee Weisberg)

Orthodox, Reform and
Conservative Jews have worshiped
here in harmony for decades.
Let's pray this Shavuot is no different.

Ever since its liberation in 1967, the Western Wall has drawn Jews of all affiliations to pray at this holy and majestic site.

All visitors, Jews and non-Jews alike, have respected the 3000-year-old Jewish tradition of men and women praying separately.

Last year, however, on the holiday of Shavuot, a small group of Jewish men and women attempted to cast aside

this tradition.

Their mixed service offended the religious sensibilities of the thousands gathered at the wall. Most suffered the indignity in silence. Some, sadly, reacted in a way that was ugly and indefensible.

Unfortunately, the lesson has not been learned. There are reports that this Shavuot, May 31, a group is planning yet another provocative, non-traditional

service. The organizers know full well that their actions will cause deep hurt and division.

Please talk to your friends, your rabbi and your community leaders. Turning a holy place into a battleground is simply wrong.

The Western Wall has witnessed thousands of years of Jewish anguish. Let's make sure we don't add to it this Shavuot.

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Jerusalem's challenges

The Jewish workers who built Government House, an elegant building with spectacular views of the Judean desert and Jerusalem's Old City, believed they were building the presidential seat of a future Jewish state. In fact, Government House was used by the British high commissioner and later became headquarters of UNTSO, the international organization monitoring the 1948 truce.

As Israelis celebrate Jerusalem Day this Sunday, Palestinians are working on a large and somewhat mysterious building in Abu Dis. They believe, according to Channel 2, that they are building the future Palestinian parliament. History may fool them, like it fooled the builders of Government House, but their hopes may also contain a glimpse of the future.

Just recently, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, reportedly told a visiting delegation of American Jews in Ramallah that there were a number of creative solutions to the seemingly intractable issue of Jerusalem.

Without endorsing any particular idea, he cited the plan devised by Labor MK Yossi Beilin and his own close adviser, Abu Mazen. That plan envisioned a Palestinian capital in Abu Dis, an Arab neighborhood that is about the same distance from the Old City as the Knesset, but lies outside Jerusalem's municipal boundaries.

The obvious attraction of the Abu Dis solution to the Jerusalem conundrum is that to the Palestinians it is part of Jerusalem; to Israelis it is not. Locating a Palestinian government center there, therefore, squares a circle by splitting the identity of the city without splitting the city itself. Israel's Jerusalem would remain whole and undivided, while at the same time leaving room for a Palestinian Jerusalem at its side.

If this solution were to be implemented, it would not be the first time that Jerusalem manifested a split personality, aside from the physical split that prevailed between 1948 and 1967. There is the psychological split in the city between ancient and modern, between the mystical Jerusalem in heaven and its earthly partner below, between Jerusalem as representing the heart of the Jewish soul and yet an economically troubled backwater.

For all of these splits, however, one idea that

unites almost all Israelis is that the barbed wire that physically divided Jerusalem for almost 20 years will never be restored. In the last national elections, Jerusalem, for the first time, became a divisive campaign issue, driving home Israeli unity on this matter. Both major parties, after all, competed to convince the voters that they would more effectively keep Jerusalem unified.

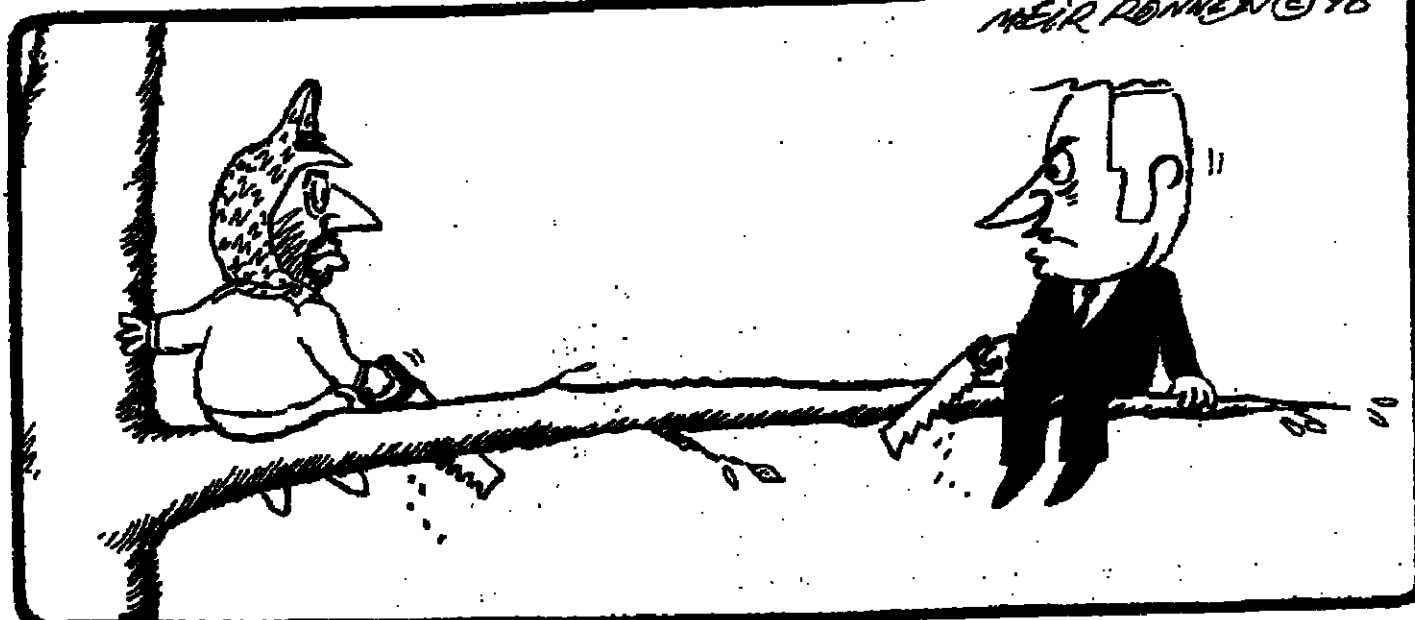
This consensus should be reflected in vigilance by the government against the various Palestinian attempts to exert sovereignty over the city. Palestinian Police and official offices must not be allowed to operate in Jerusalem, especially since these activities are a violation of the Oslo Accords. Even if this principle cannot be universally applied — by closing down Orient House, for example — it must be constantly asserted.

At the same time, it is not useful to engage in politicized competitions over who is "dividing" Jerusalem and who is not. Mayor Ehud Olmert's attempts to outflank even Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by building a Jewish housing project at Ras al-Amud, surrounded by Arab neighborhoods, did not advance the cause of a united Jerusalem.

Despite Arafat's almost daily claims to all of east Jerusalem, the Palestinian hints that an Abu Dis-type solution is worth talking about indicate that the solidity of the Israeli consensus on Jerusalem is sinking in. Without being complacent, it is fair to say that Israel's commitment to the unity of Jerusalem has been established.

The tasks that deserve more focus on this Jerusalem Day are the "mundane" concerns that preoccupy more normal cities — those of housing, jobs, planning and the environment. The cabinet's consideration in the weeks ahead of designating Jerusalem an "A-plus" priority development area, which would give residents and business various benefits and incentives, is an encouraging sign that the problems of the still-earthy city are not being ignored.

Boosting Jerusalem's economy, keeping peace among its many communities, and steering its development to allow for growth while maintaining its beauty, are all tall challenges demanding at least as much attention as keeping the city whole.



Netanyahu's discordant voyage

Prime Minister Netanyahu made the wrong voyage to Washington at the wrong time and conducted the visit in a controversial style.

The motivation was clear. The Israeli prime minister sought to create maximal friction between two branches of the US administration by describing the Congress and the diplomatic arm as opposing schools of policy.

To this end it was necessary to concentrate attention on Jewish Americans, as if they were all on one side of this artificially created barricade. The visits were carefully structured to emphasize synagogues and an organization which is repeatedly described as "a powerful pro-Israel lobby."

Whether it is correct or prudent to place Jews and Americans of other denominations in postures of mutual confrontation is a question which ought to be preoccupying Jewish leaders, especially if Mr. Netanyahu's voyage is designed to be a model for other descents upon the American public.

ABBA EBAN

AS Israel's ambassador to the United States and the United Nations in the 1950s I addressed a memo to those working in my two embassies:

American and Israeli interests

taken. I breached it myself in 1955 when the United States was supplying arms to the Arab states and withholding them from Israel. But this was an existential issue for any nation, whereas the current

Whether it is correct or prudent to place Jews and Americans of other denominations in postures of mutual confrontation is a question which ought to be preoccupying Jewish leaders

are harmonious, but not identical. There will be divergence, when this occurs, there are two options.

The wiser one — and therefore the least likely to be taken — is to isolate the controversy and negotiate it out of existence.

The unwise one is to dramatize the difference and raise the cry of abandonment.

This advice was not always

controversy about percentages of deployment — 11 or 13 percent — has no specific security consequences and need not even have left the public domain.

The issue whether such decisions should not have been left for Israeli adjudication, instead of becoming slogans for the street, is more cogent, but once influential Israelis were clamoring for US

"mediation," the argument lost a good deal of its force.

We then had the edifying spectacle of "one-sided mediation" in which it was seriously proposed that all the influences should be directed to one of the parties at issue, leaving the other party immune and sacrosanct.

That was not the kind of mediation followed by Ralph Bunche, Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter when they saved Israel from serious ordeals in the Seventies and Eighties.

The ideal situation was that which prevailed with the peace process. For the first and only time, American and Israeli policies pursued the same ends with the same degree of harmony.

Whether Prime Minister Netanyahu still regards himself as faithful to the current agreements is a question which his own collaborators have difficulty answering. Those of us who have dealt over the years with American-Israeli relations wish to see the traditional cooperation restored.

A self-inflicted catastrophe

Masses of Palestinians in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, as well as Israeli Arabs (or Israeli Palestinians, if you prefer) were busy last week demonstrating in protest against Israel's independence, which they claim is synonymous with a Palestinian holocaust.

We were witness to rock throwing, Molotov cocktails, and the by now ritual burning of Israeli flags and demands for the "right of return" of Palestinians and their descendants who fled the area at the time, 50 years ago, when the Arabs tried to destroy the newborn Jewish state.

They were taking a leaf out of Saddam Hussein's book.

This aggression-prone dictator, after waging an eight-year war against Iraq leaving hundreds of thousands of casualties in its wake, using poison gas against the Iraqis, as well as against Iraqi Kurds, invading Kuwait, and launching missiles against Israel's population centers, is now posing as the long-suffering victim of the sanctions that the UN has imposed on Iraq as a result of his aggressive behavior.

Circulating pictures throughout the world of starving children and hospitals short of medicine and equipment, he is demanding the world's pity for the misfortunes that he has brought on his own people.

And, believe it or not, there are some "bleeding hearts" around who react with sympathy to his

appeals and call for the lifting of sanctions against Iraq, even while Saddam continues to threaten the world regarding his program for the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. Not surprisingly, much of that sympathy comes from the Arab world that does not seem to be able to shake off its admiration for the despot who has

causing casualties and suffering on both sides, but losing every time. Rather than castigating the leaders that time and again led them to death and destruction, and whom they followed with such great enthusiasm, or calling on the wealthy Arab countries to solve the problem of the Palestinian refugees, they await the day of

MOSHE ARENS

Only in the new-old Middle East does the defeated aggressor insist that the victim make all the concessions as the price of peace

defied the US and boasted of his ability to burn Israel to the ground.

The Palestinians, too, are appealing for sympathy for a misfortune that they and their leaders brought on themselves.

In 1948, fully confident of their ability — with the help of the regular armies of the surrounding Arab states — to defeat the small Jewish community, destroy the State of Israel at its birth, and "throw the Jews into the sea," they rejected all offers of compromise and began a war that led to their total defeat.

In the belief that another round of war would bring them victory, the Arabs returned to the attack,

return to the cities and villages they fled, while demonstrating against Israel and blaming the Jews for their misfortune.

AGGRESSION inevitably results in suffering for the aggressor, not only for his victim. This consequence for the aggressor is generally underestimated by the leader who ventures on an aggressive design.

When his plan backfires and he loses the war he initiated, he is likely to cause his people a major catastrophe — a *nakba*. That is the lesson of history throughout the ages.

What is new is the aggressor

attempting to pose as the victim — an aggressor in victim's clothing. Sympathizing with this masquerade is not only unjust, but is liable to encourage further aggression.

For most of the world, this is too obvious to require repetition. Can anybody imagine Germans today demonstrating against the Allied nations because of the suffering they endured during World War II? Or demanding that the hundreds of thousands of Germans who became refugees at the end of the war be returned to their original homes in what is now Poland or in the areas of the Czech Republic inhabited by Germans before the war?

Would the Japanese protest against the US for the suffering they endured during the war they started with their attack on Pearl Harbor?

In the new-old Middle East things are different. Here the aggressor nations that were repeatedly defeated insist that the victim make all the concessions as the price of a peace treaty.

Only here the very existence of a sovereign Israel that succeeded in defending itself when attacked by its neighbors is labeled a travesty of justice and its day of independence is turned into a day of mourning and violent demonstrations by the Palestinians.

Moving the peace process forward is going to be very difficult as long as this attitude prevails among the Palestinians and their supporters in the Arab world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROSENBLUM'S VENOM

Sir — This time — "For this we yearned?" (May 15) — Jonathan Rosenblum surpassed himself. For reasons unknown, Dana International triggered a tirade in which misleading, erroneous "information" (not even half-truths this time) were equalled only by the vitriolic nature of his article.

The laden language, replete with images of Jews being rounded up for slaughter, our publicly spitting on the religion of our fathers, our generation breaking all barriers of perversity: pagans, Amalek, Hitler, Yossi Sarid, Yitzhak Levy — these are just some of the targets for Rosenblum's venom.

If Rosenblum had calmed down before dashing off his article with shaking hands, he might have spared us his inaccuracies and distortions, which did not help any case he was trying to make.

Whatever we may think of Dana or her song, neither she, who represented Israel, nor we, who accepted her, publicly repudiated our religion, as Rosenblum so shamelessly states.

Her pride in being Jewish is a badge she carries boldly and coherently at every opportunity. If the Jewish religion is one that is merciful and accepts differences among its adherents, it is Rosenblum who shows the dark, reactionary and unforgiving side.

For Rosenblum to distort facts of the Holocaust is as monstrous as it is unfeeling for its victims. Hitler did not kill Jews because of their religion; he killed as well those who considered themselves as Christian as their neighbors. It was blood, not religion; race not faith.

Rosenblum brings in everything apart from the kitchen sink. Thus

he brings in the old canard of Nietzsche and Hitler. Anything other than a cursory reading of Nietzsche (ask a first-year philosophy student) will dismiss any logical connection between them.

With Rosenblum writing for *The Jerusalem Post*, who needs enemies? Had that article been written abroad, we would have been up in arms. But here he is entitled to say what he wants. He concluded his article with: "Is this the new definition of Israel has given to Jewish pride?" Yes, my pride is that Jonathan Rosenblum is allowed to write what he does. A country that tolerates Dana International and Jonathan Rosenblum is strong indeed.

RONALD GREEN

Ramat Hasharon.

SHUNNING WORK

Sir — In his article "Racist slurs" (May 11) Yosef Goell claims that Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai's remarks are an "appalling racist statement."

The quotation cited, however, speaks of "foreign workers" without any racist connotation. We can't even blame the minister for a xenophobic utterance as Israel and the Israelis are known to welcome a large number of foreign tourists and are generally eager to establish contacts with foreigners.

The crux of the problem is that while we suffer from unemployment, the number of foreign workers certainly exceeds the number of our unemployed. As the author rightly remarks, one of the greatest achievements of Zionism was the productivization of the Jewish people. There is no justification for Israelis shunning work in agriculture in the building trade while claiming unemployment benefits.

DR. EZRA MENTCHER

Haifa.

WE SALUTE YOU!

Sir — We wish to give you our heartfelt good wishes and congratulations upon the achievement of 50 years of statehood.

Knowing both your trials and your achievements, we feel proud of our association with the cause of Zionism which has established such a vibrant democracy where democracy has long been in retreat. The many years during which the majority of our members have

worked for a better understanding between our two lands have only deepened our respect and affection for Israel and its people.

You are an inspiration and we salute you. Shalom.

MARYROSE BLACK
RYAN, Chair,
California Christian Committee
for Israel

Berkeley, CA.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On May 22, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported plans to supply Jerusalem with water from Ras el Ain.

The Council of Jerusalem Jews demanded the introduction of a borough system of local government which would be most

appropriate for the city in view of considerable differences between the Jewish and other communities.

25 years ago: On May 23, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Abbie Nathan, the self-appointed Middle East peace

mediator, was appealing for donations to keep afloat the mission of his SS *Shalom*, a 110-ton former Dutch coastal vessel, which started broadcasting on radio from about 15 miles out at sea.

Alexander Zvielli

The writer is Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

The king of chutzpah

MARK A. HELLER

At first glance, the connection may not be obvious, but it seems that the recent visit of Alan Dershowitz to Israel is having a profound impact on the peace process. Dershowitz, for those who have never heard of O.J. Simpson, is a renowned American-Jewish law professor and lawyer. He is also a prolific author, and his writings include a memoir entitled *Chutzpah*.

It takes chutzpah to call your autobiography *Chutzpah*, so much

join the government on the basis of existing policy but prevented from figuring out what the policy is.

And now, back to the money. For several months, the Prime Minister's Office has been hinting that a redeployment of 9% or even 11% was conditionally acceptable, all the while never saying a word about money. All of a sudden, it transpires that \$1 billion will be needed to pay for all the roads, bridges, and tunnels Israel will be

Who is Netanyahu trying to stick with the bill for preserving the security of settlers imperiled by redeployment? The Americans, of course

so that Dershowitz's presence has apparently stimulated Prime Minister Netanyahu's competitive juices. How else to explain his reported request for \$1 billion from the Americans to finance the cost of the 13 percent redeployment that he swears he has not accepted? Before explaining how this figure is arrived at and why it has led to Netanyahu's relegation of Dershowitz to the minor leagues of chutzpah, a brief digression is necessary.

Netanyahu has refused to disclose to his cabinet colleagues what he discussed with his American hosts during his recent US tour, claiming that to do so would compromise the ongoing negotiations.

This position is based on the altogether reasonable assumption that anything he says in the cabinet will be immediately leaked to the press and/or denounced by many of those who voted for him and keep him in office. But it makes it rather difficult to understand where he is trying to go.

This is not a problem for the loyalists who generally say, "Yes, Prime Minister," without understanding what Sir Humphrey really meant, but it totally confuses the opposition, who are invited to

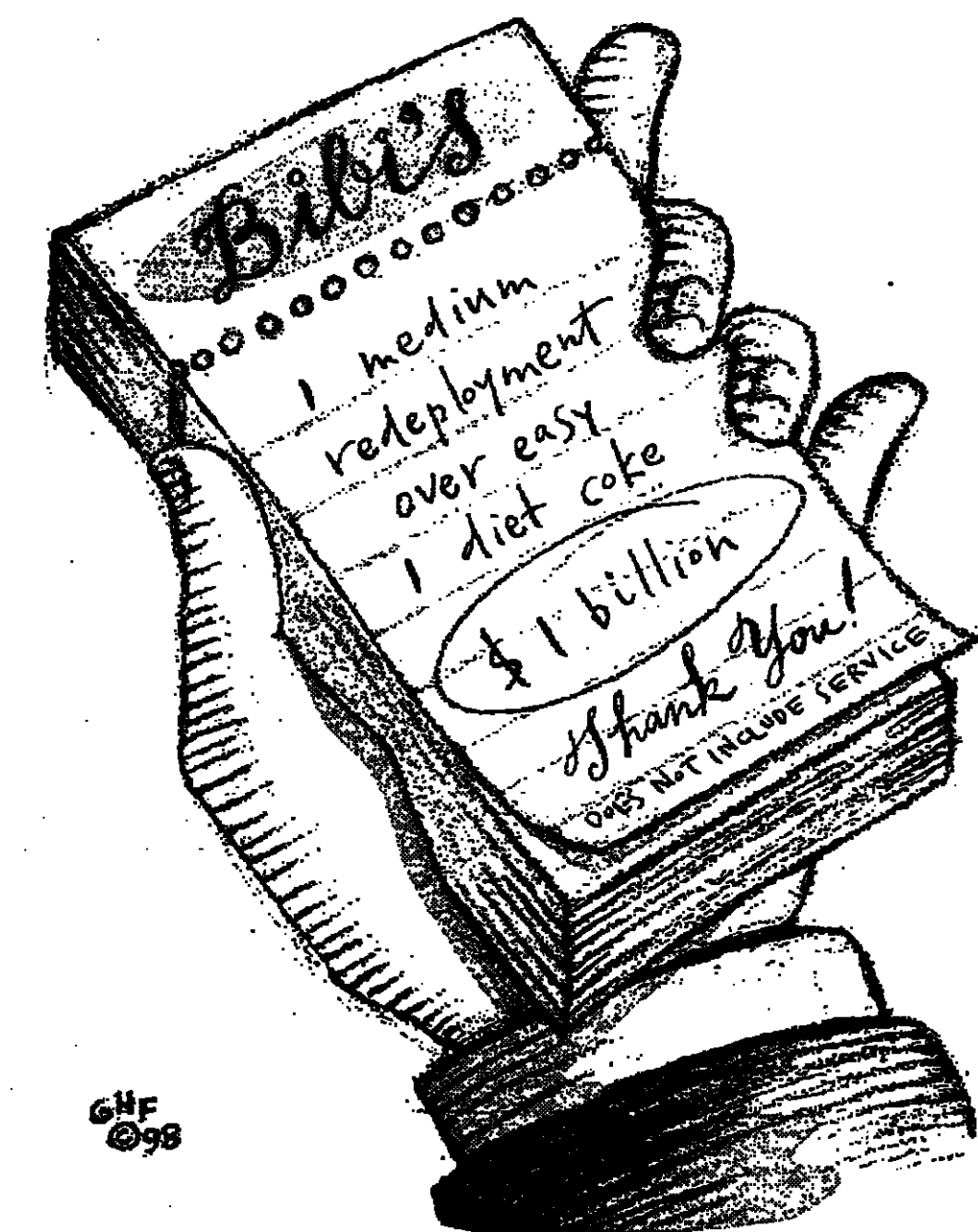
forced to build for security reasons.

SINCE there is no indication that any redeployment under consideration will seriously compromise the army's mobility or its array of facilities and installations, the only logical explanation for this new infrastructure is that it is needed to ensure the security of those settlers affected by the large redeployment, i.e. to enable them to avoid living or driving too close to the extra 2% of territory that would come under partial or complete Palestinian control.

There has as yet been no explanation of how this sum was actually calculated — \$1 billion is a suspiciously nice, round figure — but whatever the cost, it is clear that Israeli taxpayers are in no mood to pay it.

After all, for years they have been subsidizing cheap mortgages, cheap land development costs, low school and transportation fees and class sizes, and a variety of other benefits for the settlers, and they are now also suffering from a recession induced, at least in part, by the stalemate in the peace process.

Nor are the non-taxpayers represented by other coalition partners



GHF
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willing to give up any of their space at the feeding trough. So how to pay for the security demanded by redeployment?

This is where the chutzpah comes in. Ever since 1967, most of the rest of the world has been unequivocally condemning Israeli settlements as illegal, not because international law is unequivocal on this issue, but because it suited almost everyone's political inter-

est to say so. The Americans, perhaps because of a different construction of the law but also primarily for political reasons, have generally contended themselves with a milder form of reservation — that the settlements are "merely" an obstacle to peace.

So who does Netanyahu now try to stick with the bill for preserving the security of settlers imperiled by a redeployment of 13%? The

Americans, of course.

There's not much chance that he will get the money, but that doesn't rule out other benefits. For one thing, it will be a long time before Dershowitz shows his face around here again.

That doesn't necessarily mean that this is what Netanyahu had in mind all along. To find out what he really thinks, you have to ask David Bar-Ilan.

From India to Iran, via Moscow

GERALD M. STEINBERG

India's series of nuclear weapons tests will not have a direct impact on Israel, but the indirect results may be very significant. By becoming the world's sixth declared nuclear power, and the first addition since China joined this club in 1964, India has suddenly ended 34 years of nuclear stability.

This is a fundamental change in the international system — a sea change — whose implications will take many years to be understood. Beyond the reactions in Asia and within the complex triangular relationship among India, Pakistan and China, the central question is whether the Indian actions will trigger a chain reaction going beyond these states.

Despite the suggestions in Arab capitals, particularly Cairo, that the Indian nuclear tests might somehow be emulated by other states that have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the events in the South Asian region will not change Israeli policy.

As a status quo state facing Islamic and Arab-nationalist regimes that threaten its survival, Israel's policy of last-resort deterrence based on deliberate nuclear ambiguity continues to be the best option.

Israel has nothing to gain and

much to lose by following India and becoming an overt nuclear power.

The situations are very different. In contrast to India, Israel does not focus on the discrimination that allows some states to possess nuclear weapons, it does not seek to become a world power, and it has signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The critical question is whether the fallout from the Indian tests will accelerate the rate at which Iran and other countries in the Middle East are able to acquire nuclear weapons. Different scenarios exist, depending on future developments.

In the more optimistic scenario, at least from the Israeli perspective, the Indian "surprise" will shock Russia and China into ending the flow of nuclear and missile technology to Iran. These two countries have been the primary sources of the Iranian program to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and have ignored the impact of a nuclear Iran on world stability for their own strategic interests.

Perhaps now the prospect of Iranian nuclear weapons, followed by a chain reaction throughout the Middle East, has become more realistic, and this might lead to reevaluation of the wisdom of allowing

such technology to flow to Iran.

Similarly, the countries that have advocated easing sanctions on Iraq (primarily Russia, China and France) might now recognize that as soon as the UN inspectors leave, Saddam Hussein will resume his effort to acquire nuclear weapons. This time, however, he is unlikely to invade a neighboring country before the weapons have been completed.

BUT THIS is the optimistic scenario, and the pessimists are usually more accurate in their predictions. If Pakistan follows India, as now seems likely, and the Russian and Chinese assistance to Iran and Syria continues without interruption, as is also probable, these countries could seek to accelerate their nuclear programs.

As a result, in a period of 10 years or less most of the major states in the Middle East will have nuclear weapons. This will mark the end of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, which has been the major source of nuclear stability for the past three decades.

The United States is desperately trying to stop this chain by imposing stiff and painful sanctions on

India. However, the US effort is meeting with little support, and the European states, as usual, are pursuing their narrow and short-term economic and political interests by rejecting sanctions.

(While eager for business with India, Iran, and Iraq, the EU threatens sanctions to punish Israel for "obstructing the peace process.")

More importantly, the damage has been done, and the imposition of sanctions now will not undo the impact of the Indian tests.

Early sanctions, imposed after India's first test in 1974 and later in response to missile tests, only delayed the program. The new unilateral American sanctions are likely to be short lived, and the economic and political pressures for resumption of full ties with India will begin very quickly.

There is a small possibility that the costs of a cut-off in trade and aid may dissuade Pakistan from conducting a nuclear test, but to be effective, the costs of abetting proliferation need to be made clear in advance.

Here, the inconsistency in US policies has been costly.

For 18 months, the Clinton administration has rejected Israeli government calls for significant action to convince the Russian government to end assistance to

the Iranian nuclear and missile programs. The Americans argue that sanctions on Russia would lead to a backlash that might weaken the economic reform process, indicating that for the US, the problem of proliferation is not always a primary concern.

Now, when the US asks Israel to join in imposing sanctions on India, which would mean losing a number of important contracts and endangering the future of our defense industries, the Israeli government can also cite different priorities and interests.

Israel's initial response was to delay a planned trip to India by top military officers. In the longer term, it would help the American cause if they could convince the Russians to end the flow of military and dual-use technology to Iran.

The Middle East has enough sources of instability, and will not benefit from any acceleration of the proliferation process to the revolutionary and rogue states in the region. If the Indian tests are seen as a warning, and lead to serious and uncompromising policies to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons to Iran, Iraq, and Syria, the worst scenarios may be averted. However, in this as in other areas, there is little basis for optimism.

At the same time, Agudath Israel won in court an exemption for religious schools from a municipal executive order banning discrimination in hiring.

Despite having twice battled back from the brink of death, Sherer continued to work 18-hour days until the very last months of his life. In January, he ignored his doctors' orders that he stay home to lead 75 Orthodox lay leaders on a grueling three-day series of meetings with leading Israeli politicians, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Only when the visit was complete did he collapse from what he learned was a relapse of leukemia.

The great triumph of his final year was the meticulously orchestrated *Siyum HaShas* last September, joining 70,000 Jews at Madison Square Garden, Nassau Coliseum, and numerous sites around the world via satellite hookup in a celebration of the completion of the cycle of daily Talmud study. No event ever attracted more attention to study of Talmud or did more to emphasize its centrality to Jewish life.

For someone who had devoted his entire life to improving the image of the Orthodox Jew and Judaism, and did more to do so than anyone else, the vision carried around the world of tens of thousands of Jews exuberantly rejoicing over the Torah was the perfect final tribute.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

The Asian century

It was like a grand finale of a mighty symphony of the elements," an understandably excited William L. Laurence wrote immediately after witnessing — from a distance of some 20 miles — the first-ever detonation of an atomic device.

Sensing the fatefulness of that moment on July 16, 1945 at Alamogordo, New Mexico, the *New York Times* correspondent deemed it "fascinating and terrifying, uplifting and crushing, ominous, devastating, full of great promise and great foreboding."

Yet since all minds focussed on how to end the war, Laurence saw in the bomb more hope than curse. "On that moment," he wrote, "hung eternity. Time stood still. Space contracted to a pinpoint. It was as though the earth had opened and the skies split. One felt as though he had been privileged to witness the birth of the world, to be present at the moment of Creation when the Lord said: 'Let there be light.'"

Three weeks later, when the bomb was actually dropped on Hiroshima, British writer Arthur Koestler (who happened to have learned of the news from *The Palestine Post* on a flight to Britain) was more down to earth. "That's the end of the world war," he conceded, "but it's also the beginning of the end of the world."

AMERICA WAS, however, quick to fathom the meaning of its newly built bomb's power, science, as historian Daniel Boorstin later wrote, would now join pestilence, war, famine, and death as a fifth horseman of the apocalypse.

And yet, paradoxically, the bomb also made Americans — unlike India's current leadership — feel a greater sense of affinity with the outside world. "Oddly enough," wrote Boorstin, "the new instruments and evidences of American omnipotence brought a new sense of powerlessness about the future."

To non-Americans, meanwhile, the bomb epitomized not just American political and material might, but also that cultural prevalence foreseen already in Henry Luce's memorable 1940 essay "The American Century," in which he praised the New World's domination of the Old.

Today the observations of that arch-journalist — who founded *Time*, *Fortune*, and *Life* magazines — seem prophetic; our global civilization of airplanes, satellites, movies, jeans, vehicles, sneakers, PCs, fast food, pop, jazz, rock, hook shots, touch-downs, and what not has Made-in-USA written all over it.

But the American Century has been drawing to a close for a while, at least on the calendar, and until recently speculation was rife that it would be succeeded by an Asian heir.

And then came 1998. Yes, the cars we drive, the clothes we wear, the foods we eat, the TV sets we watch, and the CDs we hear are increasingly made by a host of Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Indonesian, Malaysian, Vietnamese, and other Far Easterners. But judging by this week's turbulent events in Asia, our planet's largest continent is light years away from dominating humanity the way America has.

Initially, the West rose to global prominence because European navigators, possessed by an unquenchable thirst for exploration, trade, and conquest, braved the globe's high seas.

Asians, at the same time, stayed put.

Cheng Ho, the great Chinese seafarer whose expedition of more than 27,000 sailors reached the Red Sea more than half-a-century before Columbus landed in America, did not seek to amass riches, engage in commerce, proselytize natives, or explore new

horizons. All he wanted was to display the Ming dynasty's prowess, and even that ended abruptly when subsequent emperors found the outside world altogether irrelevant.

In Japan, the Tokugawa shoguns massacred thousands of Europeans and then officially forbade the entry of foreigners and the exit of locals, thus heralding some 250 years of splendid isolation which ended only in the twilight of the 19th century.

In India, Moguls and Hindus focussed on fighting each other, while abandoning the subcontinent's maritime horizons to the devices of British, French, Dutch, and Portuguese traders.

SINCE THEN Asia has acknowledged its grave mistakes, but only on the surface.

Japan showed the way with Emperor Meiji's breathtaking Westernization drive, which within one generation bred everything and anything from telegraph lines, railways, motor cars, and airplanes to newspapers, financial markets, a parliament, and even the introduction of meat and milk into a hitherto fish-and-rice-dominated diet.

"Japan has made astonishing progress and become a modern nation the advanced level of which is proverbial," wrote enviously Syrian nationalist Shakhil Arslan in 1938.

And yet something was fundamentally amiss.

The choice to emulate the symptoms of the American Century often ignored the deep individual freedom which bred the originality and innovation that were — and remain — the fuel behind America's global domination.

Perhaps that is why Asians, while excelling in reproducing what others have conceived, have yet to invent something as globally pervasive as a car, a computer, or a washing machine, all devised by products of Western capitalist democracies.

Nothing embodies this gap more than the bomb itself. Dropping it on Nagasaki, where pre-modern Japan had kept its only window to the world via a Dutch trading station, scathingly exposed the limits of an attempt to emulate the West's industrial revolution while shunning its fascination with ingenuity.

India's abuse of its nuclear capability is the flip side of this coin. There was no originality in its leaders' derelict behavior this week, not to mention vision. If anything, theirs is a thinking much like Kaiser Wilhelm's, whose obsession with military parity, bickering, and build-up resulted in the bloody wars that ended with — what else — the bomb.

India's lack of freedom is not in the political sense — it is a functioning democracy — but in the economic realm, where statist norms, caste traditions, ethnic strife, and religious intolerance stifle the social and financial mobility which are essential attributes on the road to prosperity. No A-bomb will ameliorate any of these, much less help Asia herald a century that would succeed America's.

Suharto's downfall, at the same time, unveiled a vast Asian domain's social decay which had been festering for decades under authoritarian nepotism. Here too, there may have been some progress toward material prosperity, but not even a hint of an Asian century.

Surely, should there ever be an Asian century it would emanate from the Chinese-Japanese nexus, once the Sea of Japan finally witnesses full democracy to its west and true capitalism to its east. Yet judging by the marginal roles played by Tokyo and Beijing during this week's Asian dramas, one must wonder whether powers that can't even pull their own region's act together can ever do so with mankind itself.

A 'shtadlan' for our times

Tens of thousands of New Yorkers stood outside in sweltering heat for hours this past Monday to pay tribute to Rabbi Moshe Sherer. Among those in attendance were New York Gov. George Pataki and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, both of whom expressed a desire to eulogize Sherer.

In an unprecedented gesture, Sen. Daniel Moynihan took the Senate floor, just as the funeral was commencing, to speak about a treasured friend of over 30 years.

Most American Jews were probably puzzled why *The New York Times* devoted two full stories to Sherer's passing — an indication of how profoundly removed from one another are the various segments of American Jewry. Yet Sherer played a pivotal role in the post-war resurgence of Orthodoxy in America and brought unprecedented respect to Torah Judaism in the halls of power.

Paying tribute to "a giant," Vice President Al Gore said, only hours after his passing, "Many in the Orthodox community say, 'How far we have come.' They should say, 'How far he brought us!'"

When the 20-year-old Moshe Sherer came to work for Agudath Israel in 1943, Orthodox Jews were a "sickly reed" in the eyes of mainstream Jewish groups. Even within the Orthodox world, Agudath Israel was barely on the map, despite the wartime rescue

work of hundreds of volunteers in their teens and early 20s, led by Sherer's mentor Mike Tress, which resulted in saving several thousand European Jews, including many great Torah scholars.

Sherer's first assignment was to attend a meeting of Orthodox groups devoted to fostering Shabbat observance. The leader of the then dominant faction of American Orthodoxy told him, "The Agudah is a bunch of nobodies. We won't work with nobodies like you."

Over the next 55 years — 35 as president of the organization — Sherer built Agudath Israel into the largest grass-roots Orthodox organization in America, with over 100,000 members, hundreds of employees, more than a dozen different divisions, and a full-time lobbying office in Washington. He became the premier spokesman for American Orthodoxy in the corridors of power and placed himself at the service of every Orthodox group that sought his help.

Armed with neither of the calling cards of modern American politics — money or votes — he nevertheless developed an unparalleled network of political contacts over the decades. His methods were those of the traditional Jewish *shtadlan* (government intercessor): subtlety, non-confrontation and absolute integrity.

He never endorsed a political candidate and worked closely with politicians from both major par-

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

ties. Sherer delivered the invocation at Giuliani's inauguration, but had Giuliani's opponent David Dinkins won, it is probable that Sherer would have given the invocation at his inauguration as well, so respected was he by both men.

During the 1988 presidential election, a leading Jewish activist was told by top figures in both the Dukakis and Bush campaigns that the only Jewish leader they trusted fully was Sherer.

Politicians valued his advice and friendship. Moynihan credited him with the best piece of political advice he ever received: During his first senatorial campaign in 1976, Sherer told him, "Just be Pat Moynihan. Don't try to be Louis Lefkowitz."

The warm feelings engendered by the thousands of elegantly phrased, handwritten notes he sent to various officials over the years, thanking them for a favor or congratulating them on some achievement, lingered long after the specific reason for the note was forgotten. Sherer forged a series of crucial alliances that greatly increased the influence of Orthodox Jews.

FROM the early '60s, he worked closely with the Catholic Church to win greatly increased governmental benefits for parochial

school students. His work on behalf of Soviet Jewry typified his non-confrontational approach.

In the mid-'80s, Max Kampelman brought a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Moynihan that he would consider reopening the gates to Jewish emigration in return for some goodwill gestures from America and American Jewry.

Moynihan was inclined to take up the fever, but his suggestion that American Jewish groups cancel the forthcoming Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry was strenuously opposed by almost all mainstream Jewish organizations.

Sherer, however, counseled Moynihan that he was doing the right thing and should carry on. Eventually the planned march was cancelled, and as a result 37 of the 40 leading refuseniks were released by the Soviets.

He was too astute to ever waste energy in ways that would ultimately prove detrimental to his cause. When a local Orthodox politician pushed a city-wide referendum on a New York City statute forbidding discrimination in housing on the basis of sexual orientation, Sherer pointedly refused to get involved. He recognized that the referendum was a sure loser, and would only result in a rousing victory for gay activists and create new implacable enemies for Orthodox Jews.

ROOT & BRANCH Association Ltd.

EMBASSY 3000 INITIATIVE
The Honorable Kare Kristiansen, International Chairman

"ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION OF UNITED JERUSALEM AS
ISRAEL'S ETERNAL CAPITAL"

AN ADDRESS BY KARE KRISTIANSEN
Thursday, May 28, at 8 p.m.
Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel
(Press Conference at 7:00 P.M. - accredited journalists only)

CHAIRMAN: Samson Kupnick; RAB EXCLUSIVE BOARD MEMBERS: Yona Barmel, Robert Cramer, Rabbi Pinchas Gold, Rabbi Emanuel Qalin; GREETINGS (in formation): David Bar-Ilan, Prof. Herman Bravov, Justice Moshe Landau, Prof. Ezra Schar, HONORARY COMMITTEE (in formation): Rev. Dr. George Cohen Stuart, Prof. Paul Elieberg, Prof. Emil Fackenheim, Prof. Zeev W. Falk, Zali Jaffe, Adv. Prof. Nahum Rakover

UPCOMING EMBASSY 3000 CONFERENCES
Sunday, June 7 - New York City - Helen Freedman, Chairwoman
Sunday, September 13 - Jerusalem - Samson Kupnick, Chairman

Embassy 3000 calls upon the nations of the world to recognize united Jerusalem as the Eternal Capital of the State of Israel, which is the spiritual homeland of the Jewish People, and to move their embassies in Israel to Jerusalem.

Embassy 3000 International Chairman Kare Kristiansen is Past President of the Norwegian Parliament, former Norwegian Minister of Oil and Energy, former Chairman of Norway's Christian Democratic Party and a former Nobel Peace Prize Committee Member.

"I can spare no words in emphasizing the importance of your tireless efforts for a united Jerusalem, particularly as the struggle for the city's future is reaching its final stage."

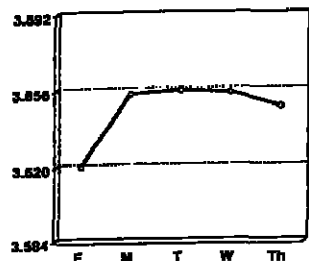
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
Open to the public. Admission free, contributions welcome (U.S. tax-deductible)

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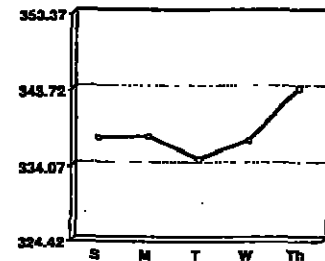
MARKETS

in brief

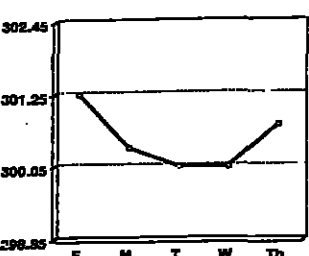
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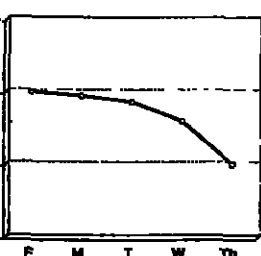
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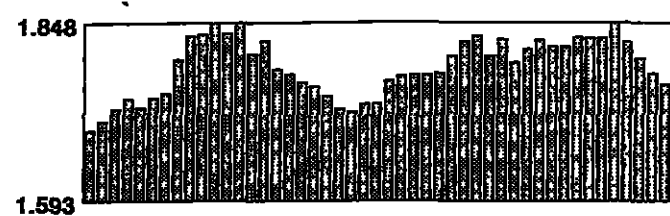
GOLD
\$ per ounce



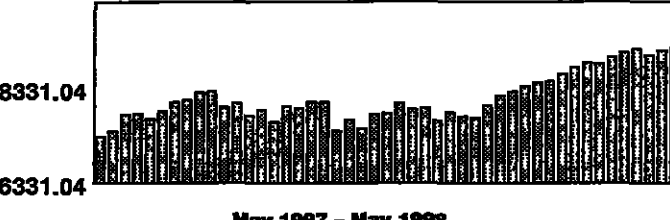
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



BITS & BYTES

ECI wins \$5.3m. contract in China

ECI Telecom won a \$5.3-million contract this week to supply its SDH transmission and management solutions for the city network of Kunming, the capital of China's western Yunnan province. The project was developed as part of Kunming's PTB Telecom network modernization plan.

The Yunnan City Network will be deployed in multi-ring configurations, distributing voice and data to the six million residents of Kunming. The system supports a wide range of services and interfaces including telephony, data and video, and allows easy integration with existing and future networks. ECI Telecom was chosen out of eight companies bidding on the tender. ECI Telecom's also recently announced a \$31 million SDH contract to distribute voice, data, and video to the millions of residents of the Hunan province. *Nina Gilbert*

PictureVision to be available through AOL

The Eastman Kodak company announced an agreement with America Online this week, allowing AOL subscribers to get digitized versions of their snapshots returned to their on-line accounts. Terms of the three-year exclusive deal were not disclosed. The technology used for this service was developed by PictureVision, a former start-up established in Jerusalem in which Kodak purchased a controlling share in March. PictureVision's R&D facility is located at the Har Hotzvim high-tech park.

PictureVision CEO Phil Garfinkle said the technology has been around for several years but is only now able to be delivered to the mass market. "This is completely different from anything tried in the past," Garfinkle said. "You not only can share your thoughts, but now we can share memories and experiences as well."

Dan Carp, president and CEO of Eastman Kodak Company, said, "We started the Kodak Picture Network but it wasn't moving fast enough, so we took a majority position in PictureVision that allowed us to make the online backbone." The "You've Got Pictures!" service - expected to be available in the fall - will enable the more than 12 million AOL subscribers to store photos in a private, on-line photo album. Powered by digital imaging technology, regular camera films are developed and the pictures are then uploaded to an Internet web site. *Eli Groner*

Laser printer cartridges recycled by kibbutz

The first shipment of laser printer cartridges recycled at Kibbutz Afik on the Golan Heights was sent recently to Holland, from where they will be sold in Germany and Belgium. The kibbutz collects the cartridges from all types of laser printers, especially Canon and HP. "Instead of the cartridges sitting in garbage dump and causing damage to the environment, we are recycling them," said Shmuel Vitman, marketing manager of AFIC.

The Dutch 3P company decided to purchase the cartridges, its first recycled product, after they were found fit for European standards and competitive with original products. The AFIC company, 50% owned by kibbutz, was established in 1982 and also recycles ink and bubble-jet printer cartridges. *Nina Gilbert*

Ministry of Defense

Authority for Military Equipment Import Permits

Military Equipment Agents, as defined in the Supervision of Goods and Services Law (Amendment No. 6) 1976 are required to request a permit from the Authority, authorizing them to collect commission and fixing the level of such commissions.

In this context, an "agent" includes a purchase/sale agent for military equipment, a marketer of military equipment, or a person who operates in some other way on behalf of such a purchase/sale agent or marketer, or through an arrangement with a military equipment manufacturer or his marketing agency, on a permanent or temporary basis, but excluding a manufacturer of such military equipment.

To obtain such a permit, apply to Mr. Benny Seger, Tel. 03-697-5028.

Mystery buyer lifts Hapoalim shares

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank Hapoalim shares surged 4.76 percent yesterday to NIS 11.23 in very active trading, spreading rumors about the identity of the buyer.

Before the market's opening, traders predicted that Hapoalim would decline sharply, since yesterday was the first day in which the bank's workers could sell shares given to them in 1993 as part of the bank's share offering. During the last three trading days,

the stock has lost more than 3 percent as investors were waiting for a decline.

"Investors were selling shares over the last several days as they expected that they could buy them back for a lower price on Thursday," said Ron Weisberg of IBI Investment House. "Other investors were sitting on the sidelines waiting for the workers' share sale to increase their position. The appearance of such an aggressive buyer surprised everybody."

Weisberg added, however, that

despite rumors that the Arison group was the main buyer, it could have also been a foreign investment house which was using the opportunity to buy a relatively big stake. One possible buyer could be US investment house Goldman, Sachs & Co, which started working in Israel recently, and rated Hapoalim shares as "recommend list" earlier this month.

Turnover in Hapoalim shares totaled more than NIS 100 million, with some 9.2 million shares changing hands, well above the

average daily volume of 1.5 million. The rise in Hapoalim shares pushed the Maof 25 index 1.97% higher to an all-time high of 343.72, as the bank's share represents 9.5% of the Maof index.

According to estimates, about half of the workers used the opportunity to sell their holdings for a price which is some 300% higher than the price they paid five years ago.

An group of investors led by businessman Ted Arison last year won a tender to buy 43% of Bank

Hapoalim for NIS 4.8 billion. Since then the group has increased its stake by buying shares on the free market, but traders noted that it was done when the price was much lower. The Arison group still holds an option to buy an additional 21.5% for the same price.

Weisberg said that although the Arison group seems to be the obvious buyer, so far it had only purchased the stock at a price of about NIS 9.5, close to the price paid for the government's holdings in the bank.



Pilots celebrate the inauguration of Air Canada flights between Tel Aviv and Montreal yesterday

Air Canada foresees Tel Aviv as flight hub

By HANI SHAPIRO

Despite the current slowdown in peace negotiations, Tel Aviv will become the air hub of the Middle East, a senior executive of Air Canada predicted yesterday.

Jean-Jacques Bourgeault, senior executive vice-president of the company, was visiting for the inauguration of Air Canada's twice-weekly flights between Montreal and Tel Aviv. He said he expected

the peace talks to get back on track.

The development of Tel Aviv into such a hub would, he said, be in keeping with the company's policy of directing flights to regional centers in cooperation with other airlines. The hubs enable passengers to conveniently make connections.

Air Canada is part of the Star Alliance, in which Lufthansa is a key member.

The Montreal-Tel Aviv flight

arrangements bring to seven the number of weekly Air Canada flights to Israel. It was only with the availability of a daily flight, Bourgeault said, that the company could hope to attract business traffic.

The entry of Air Canada into the market in which formerly only El Al controlled, has actually benefited both companies at the expense of some of the European airlines and resulted in an increase in the number of passengers, he said.

Experts: Few options for gas purchase

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel will be very restricted in its ability to purchase natural gas in the near future because of geopolitics, especially relations with the Arab world.

This was the assessment of a panel of experts, which yesterday addressed the Israel Economic Association.

The government and Israel Electric Corporation are holding ongoing discussions about the country's future energy sources.

By the end of the year a decision is expected, which will reduce an almost complete reliance on coal to 50 percent, with the remainder anticipated to take the form of natural gas. This would be imported via pipeline or in a liquefied state (LNG).

Former energy minister Moshe Shahal said the political situation in a potential supplier country is precarious and Israel should avoid relying on such a source. While he declined to name the country, others participating said he was referring to Nigeria.

In practical terms, Egypt is the only logical supplier, given its geographical proximity, said energy consultant Amit Mor.

Egypt has large natural gas reserves in the Sinai, that multinational corporations are currently developing.

"The only realistic option is to buy LNG until the political situation allows us to purchase from Egypt," said Mor.

The Egyptian government has said it is not prepared to negotiate with Israel until there is a real breakthrough in peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

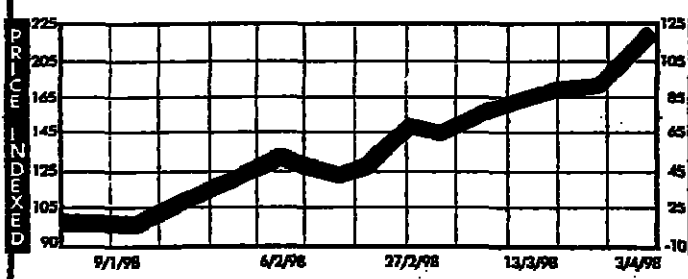
Mor said the only other natural gas supply could come from Saudi Arabia but clearly that can only be a target for the long-term future.

The panel predicted that wherever terminals are built to receive and process the gas, local residents and environmentalists will raise strong objections. There could also be security implications if the installations are built offshore, its members said.

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HEAR O ISRAEL

Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' Then the Lord will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people." Joel 2:17-18

"Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 20:7

Come now O Israel, let us become one in heart and humble ourselves before the Lord our God and pray for the peace of Jerusalem!!!
Meeting at the Dung Gate, May 27 at 7 p.m.



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LAST CHA

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107.438	+0.18
40	+0.31
1.4375	-0.12

[illegible]

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	343.72
Tel Aviv	343.72
Tel Aviv	343.72
Tel Aviv	343.72
Tel Aviv	343.72

LAST	CHANGE
Bank Leumi	343.72
Bank Leumi	343.72
Bank Leumi	343.72
Bank Leumi	343.72
Bank Leumi	343.72

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES	LAST	CHANGE
US Dollar	1.75	-0.01
British Pound	1.50	-0.01
Japanese Yen	100	-0.01
Swiss Franc	1.50	-0.01
German Mark	1.50	-0.01
French Franc	1.50	-0.01
Italian Lira	1.50	-0.01
Spanish Peseta	1.50	-0.01
Portuguese Escudo	1.50	-0.01
Irish Punt	1.50	-0.01
Belgian Franc	1.50	-0.01
Dutch Guilder	1.50	-0.01
Austrian Schilling	1.50	-0.01
Swedish Krona	1.50	-0.01
Norwegian Krone	1.50	-0.01
Danish Krone	1.50	-0.01
Finnish Mark	1.50	-0.01
Canadian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
Australian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
New Zealand Dollar	1.50	-0.01
South African Rand	1.50	-0.01
Israeli Shekel	1.50	-0.01

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES	LAST	CHANGE
Dow Jones	9132	+0.40%
S&P 500	5935.6	+0.48%
Nikkei	15845.25	+1.23%
FTSE 100	2885.5	+0.48%
Hang Seng	8074	+0.48%
ASX 200	3074	+0.48%
SEAX 100	3074	+0.48%
FTSE 100	2885.5	+0.48%
Hang Seng	8074	+0.48%
ASX 200	3074	+0.48%
SEAX 100	3074	+0.48%

OTHER MARKET INDEXES	LAST	CHANGE
FTSE 100	2885.5	+0.48%
Hang Seng	8074	+0.48%
ASX 200	3074	+0.48%
SEAX 100	3074	+0.48%
FTSE 100	2885.5	+0.48%
Hang Seng	8074	+0.48%
ASX 200	3074	+0.48%
SEAX 100	3074	+0.48%
FTSE 100	2885.5	+0.48%
Hang Seng	8074	+0.48%
ASX 200	3074	+0.48%
SEAX 100	3074	+0.48%

DOLLAR CROSSEXCHANGES	LAST	CHANGE
US Dollar	1.75	-0.01
British Pound	1.50	-0.01
Japanese Yen	100	-0.01
Swiss Franc	1.50	-0.01
German Mark	1.50	-0.01
French Franc	1.50	-0.01
Italian Lira	1.50	-0.01
Spanish Peseta	1.50	-0.01
Portuguese Escudo	1.50	-0.01
Irish Punt	1.50	-0.01
Belgian Franc	1.50	-0.01
Dutch Guilder	1.50	-0.01
Austrian Schilling	1.50	-0.01
Swedish Krona	1.50	-0.01
Norwegian Krone	1.50	-0.01
Danish Krone	1.50	-0.01
Finnish Mark	1.50	-0.01
Canadian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
Australian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
New Zealand Dollar	1.50	-0.01
South African Rand	1.50	-0.01
Israeli Shekel	1.50	-0.01

US COMMODITIES	LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

LONDON COMMODITIES	LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)	LAST	CHANGE
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES	LAST	CHANGE
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

LONDON METAL FIXES	LAST	CHANGE
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

PARIS	LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

FRANKFURT	LAST	CHANGE
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01
Crude Oil	22.50	-0.01
Gold	380.95	+0.01
Silver	5.88	+0.01
Copper	1.45	+0.01
Platinum	13.87	+0.01
Palladium	218.9	+0.01

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS	LAST	CHANGE
US Dollar	1.75	-0.01
British Pound	1.50	-0.01
Japanese Yen	100	-0.01
Swiss Franc	1.50	-0.01
German Mark	1.50	-0.01
French Franc	1.50	-0.01
Italian Lira	1.50	-0.01
Spanish Peseta	1.50	-0.01
Portuguese Escudo	1.50	-0.01
Irish Punt	1.50	-0.01
Belgian Franc	1.50	-0.01
Dutch Guilder	1.50	-0.01
Austrian Schilling	1.50	-0.01
Swedish Krona	1.50	-0.01
Norwegian Krone	1.50	-0.01
Danish Krone	1.50	-0.01
Finnish Mark	1.50	-0.01
Canadian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
Australian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
New Zealand Dollar	1.50	-0.01
South African Rand	1.50	-0.01
Israeli Shekel	1.50	-0.01

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS	LAST	CHANGE
US Dollar	1.75	-0.01
British Pound	1.50	-0.01
Japanese Yen	100	-0.01
Swiss Franc	1.50	-0.01
German Mark	1.50	-0.01
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Italian Lira	1.50	-0.01
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Australian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
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Israeli Shekel	1.50	-0.01

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Danish Krone	1.50	-0.01
Finnish Mark	1.50	-0.01
Canadian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
Australian Dollar	1.50	-0.01
New Zealand Dollar	1.50	-0.01
South African Rand	1.50	-0.01
Israeli Shekel	1.50	-0.01

TASE record led by Bank Hapoalim

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks rose to record highs yesterday, led by Bank Hapoalim.

This came as investors, seeing expanding loan demand, purchased employee-held shares that opened to trading Wednesday at the end of a five-year moratorium. Bank Hapoalim gained 4.8 percent to 343.72 shekels, its largest one-day gain since Oct. 29. That helped push the Maof Index of 25 largest companies 1.97 percent to an all-time high of 343.72.

"Commercial credit demand remain strong" for Israel's banks, including Hapoalim, said Dov Iskowitz, an analyst at Ofek Securities and Investments. He said Israel's largest bank is inexpensive compared with its peers, and that its earnings are likely to benefit from lower expenses in the next few years as it implements early-retirement plans for employees.

Bank Leumi, the second-largest bank, gained 1.9 percent to 7.41 shekels, and Israel Discount Bank, the third largest bank, rose 1.7 percent to 4.27 shekels.

Analysts also expect, however, that Hapoalim's first-quarter earnings, due next week, will be lower than the previous year. Bank Hapoalim's gain today is "quite a shocker, everyone expected it to drop pretty strongly," said Ira Slonowitz, a trader at Israel Brokerage and Investments.

The shares, while up 33 percent this year, had slipped 3.6 percent over six days on concern that the about

20 million newly traded shares would depress its price. Some 9.2 million shares were traded compared with a three-month daily average of 1.5 million.

Other leading gainers included Makhshim-Agan Industries Ltd., rising 2.6 percent to 13.6 shekels. The chemical and fertilizer products maker, which is expected to report first-quarter earnings later today, extended gains after it said yesterday it wants to raise \$100 million to finance acquisitions and marketing activities by selling new equity to shareholders.

Europe

UK stocks gained as lower-than-expected retail sales raised optimism that interest rates have peaked, while a weaker pound boosted exporters such as Reckitt & Colman Plc and RMC Group Plc.

British retail sales rose 0.1 percent in April, below forecasts of 0.5 percent, revealing "weak" sales growth, said Eddie George, Bank of England Governor.

"The numbers show a cooling off of demand," said Tom Eyre, an investment manager at BWD Rensburg Ltd., which has 1.6 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion) under management. "Rates are firmly on hold, but I don't expect them to come down as swiftly as some people are expecting."

The benchmark FTSE 100 Index rose 28.2 points, or 0.48 percent, to 2,885.5. Among exporters, Reckitt & Colman gained 27p to 1,227, Siebe rose 44p to 1,514 and



Maof 343.72 ▲ 1.97%

Dow Jones 9132 ▼ 0.40%

FTSE 5935.6 ▲ 0.48%

Nikkei 15845.25 ▲ 1.23%

RMC Group advanced 2p to 1142. The broader FTSE 250 Index rose 0.5 percent to a record 5854.5, while the FT-SE 350, a combination of the other two, advanced 0.48 percent to 2885.5.

The FTSE 100 lost 20 points in the last few minutes of trading after US stocks turned lower.

UK exporters gained after the pound fell as low as 2.8611 marks, a six-month low, compared with 2.8923 yesterday on forecasts interest rates won't rise.

Asia

More than 150 Japanese companies have announced plans in the past three days to buy back millions of their own shares to push up depressed stock prices.

Sharp Corp., Nippon Steel Corp., Toyota Motor Corp. and Pioneer Electronic Corp. are among companies that have

announced plans to buy back shares under

What's behind the numbers game?



"Anybody who thinks he can make a deal with the Palestinians while giving up less than 50 percent of the West Bank doesn't know what he's talking about"

— Uri Savir

The redeployment debate revolves dizzyingly around percentages, the meaning of which is known to only a few. **Abraham Rabinovich** unravels them with the help of some past and present players

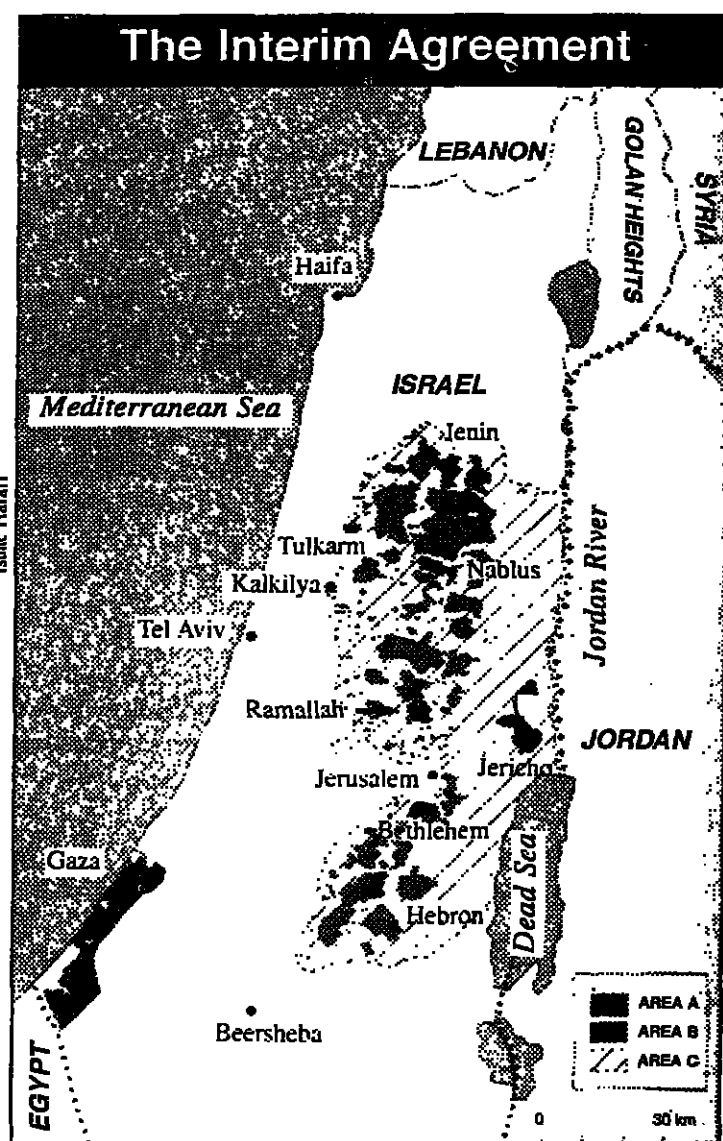


Netanyahu, Albright and their teams at negotiations in Washington last week: The public has little idea of what is being talked about. (AP)



"It is implicit in the nature of the Oslo Accords that we will not reach a final status agreement. What we will have instead is a status quo"

— Pinhas Wallerstein



Trust us, said Shimon Peres to Yasser Arafat. "When we give our word, we keep it." It was one of the major crisis points in negotiations on the interim Israeli-Palestinian agreement in 1995.

"But what if your government changes?" asked the Palestinian leader, referring to the Israeli elections the following year.

"We'll win the next election," Peres assured him.

Arafat, who has more reason to admire Peres as a visionary than a prophet, had little option then but to trust the Israeli foreign minister who held almost all the cards. Three years later they and the rest of us watch — intrigued, puzzled or horrified — as the Likud-led coalition passionately debates with itself the same issue that Peres asked Arafat to trust him on: the extent of the redeployment of Israeli forces on the West Bank.

It is a debate that has taken on a mystical quality, expressed in numbers, in numbers that mean nothing to the general public. The debate is about the redeployment of Israeli forces on the West Bank — nine percent, 11, 13, 13.1, combinations of nine and four. The general public has little idea of what is being talked about, and elected officials are not much wiser. The clear if controversial shape that the peace process once had has become almost totally blurred as the issue spins in place and the initial logic of the process is forgotten.

Uri Savir, who describes the Arafat-Peres exchange in his just-published book, *The Process*, indicated in an interview this

week that the underlying assumptions of the current debate on redeployment — including the numerical formulas — are remote from the assumptions that produced the Oslo Accords to which the present government is nominally committed.

"Anybody who thinks he can make a deal with the Palestinians while giving up less than 50 percent of the West Bank doesn't know what he's talking about," says Savir, who was Israel's chief negotiator on the interim agreement.

The previous Labor government had been prepared to give up 50 percent in the interim stage and more in final status negotiations. The debate within the present Likud government is between 36-40% in the interim stage — and there is no indication that it will be willing to give up anything more in the final stage.

After Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in 1994, two major steps in the redeployment of Israeli troops on the West Bank — were to follow. The former was relatively simple. The latter was the subject of protracted and acrimonious negotiations.

The Palestinians wanted only one Israeli redeployment covering the bulk of the West Bank. Rabin, however, insisted on a pullback in unspecified stages in order to link withdrawal to the curbing of terror by the Palestinian Authority.

The first pullback, from six West Bank cities (in addition to Jericho), came prior to the

Palestinian elections. There was a subsequent pullback from most of Hebron. These urban areas, designated Area A, constitutes three percent of the West Bank and include 35% of the Palestinian population. The 465 villages containing the rest of the Palestinian population are included in Area B, covering 24% of the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority has complete civil and security control in area A and is responsible for civil and police matters in Area B but here Israel retains overriding security responsibility. Area C, in which there is exclusive Israeli control, consists of depopulated areas, principally desert, and Israeli settlements. The Palestinians agreed to leave their demands for the removal of settlements to final status talks.

The three redeployments carried out after withdrawal from the cities — "further" redeployments in Oslo argot — were to be carried out at six-month intervals. The Palestinians demanded to be told the extent of these pullbacks beforehand, but Rabin refused. He may have sent him, however, through informal contacts with Arafat: by Yossi Gindes, a former senior General Security Service official.

Savir said this week that among themselves the Israeli team had agreed on a pullback of 13-14% in the first two withdrawals. This is close to what Netanyahu may be offering now as a "second redeployment" which in fact combines the first and second ones. [The Palestinians rejected Netanyahu's offer last year of a 1.9% first withdrawal.] However,

while the present government is seeking ways to avoid a third redeployment, or to confine it to a symbolic half percent, the Labor government was weighing a third redeployment of 10 percent, says Savir.

Given that the Palestinians already had full or partial control over 27% in Areas A and B, the three "further" redeployments envisioned by the Labor government would probably have brought the West Bank territory offered the Palestinians in the interim stage to 50%. Allegations that "Labor" had offered the Palestinians 90% are false, says Savir.

Why was it weighing an offer 50%? Because the army said it did not need more than that to safeguard Israel's security interests, says Savir. Rabin had asked the army to draw up a security interests map marking out areas that Israel should avoid giving up in the interim stage.

According to Savir, chief of staff Gen. Amnon Shahak said the map designated 50% for security purposes only because all settlements were to remain in place during the interim stage. Protection of settlements and approach roads were figured into the security map.

"If not for the settlements we would need much less," says Savir. "What would be needed for Israel's security in that case would be some territory along the Green Line, roads (east-west) for the army to the lower Jordan Valley and the valley itself."

Each of the three withdrawals was to constitute transfers of land

from Area C to Area A, says Savir. Parallel to each of these three transfers was to be the transfer of unspecified parts of Area B to Area A.

If the Labor government was prepared to give up 50% of the West Bank in the interim stage, would it have given still more in the final status talks? "Yes," says Savir. He declines to speculate how much more.

If the original timetable had not been knocked askew by Labor's defeat, Israel and the Palestinians would have been 14 months into final status talks by the time the third withdrawal was scheduled to take place.

"We would probably have been in a position by then to have made an even more generous withdrawal proposal within the framework of the final status agreement."

Such territorial generosity would stem from the fact, says Savir, that some of the Israeli settlements would be by that stage of the talks have been given up.

Final status talks would have necessitated considerable creative thinking, says Savir, including an examination of shared sovereignty in the lower Jordan Valley. The major casualty of the present government's policies, he says, is the mutual trust which enabled "Israel and the Palestinians to make the shift from enemies to partners in the building of peace."

Gen. (res.) Oren Shahor, who as coordinator of activities in the territories had been a member of Savir's negotiating team, feels Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu may honestly hope — "although I'm not sure about it" — to conclude the second withdrawal, but he will not go beyond that.

"It is impossible for him to finish the final status talks," says Shahor. "It has taken him two years to accomplish so little when the problems facing him have not been huge. How will he deal with final status issues which are immense like Jerusalem, final borders, settlements and Arab refugees?"

Settlement leader Pinhas Wallerstein fully agrees with Shahor about the unlikelihood of a final status agreement, but for contrary reasons.

"At final status talks the Palestinians will demand the right to return to Haifa and Jaffa and the talks will collapse," says Wallerstein, who is chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, the roof body of all settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "It is implicit in the nature of the Oslo Accords that we will not reach a final status agreement. What we will have instead is a status quo."

If this approach is shared by the present government, it would go far toward explaining the seeming contradiction between Netanyahu's foot-dragging on interim talks and his eagerness to get to final status talks.

Ideologically, says Wallerstein, the settlers are opposed to giving up any West Bank territory at all. However, if the Palestinians were to honor all their commitments, including surrendering weapons beyond those they are entitled to under the Oslo Accords and handing over wanted murderers of Israelis — then we can have no complaint against Netanyahu if he makes a second redeployment although we would still be opposed to it.

However, he says, there would be no third withdrawal even though Israel had agreed to it because the final status talks would have collapsed by then.

"If the Palestinians don't sign on a final status agreement why should we make another withdrawal?" In this whirlpool of hope, despair, hidden agendas and conflicting visions the next stage of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue will play itself out.

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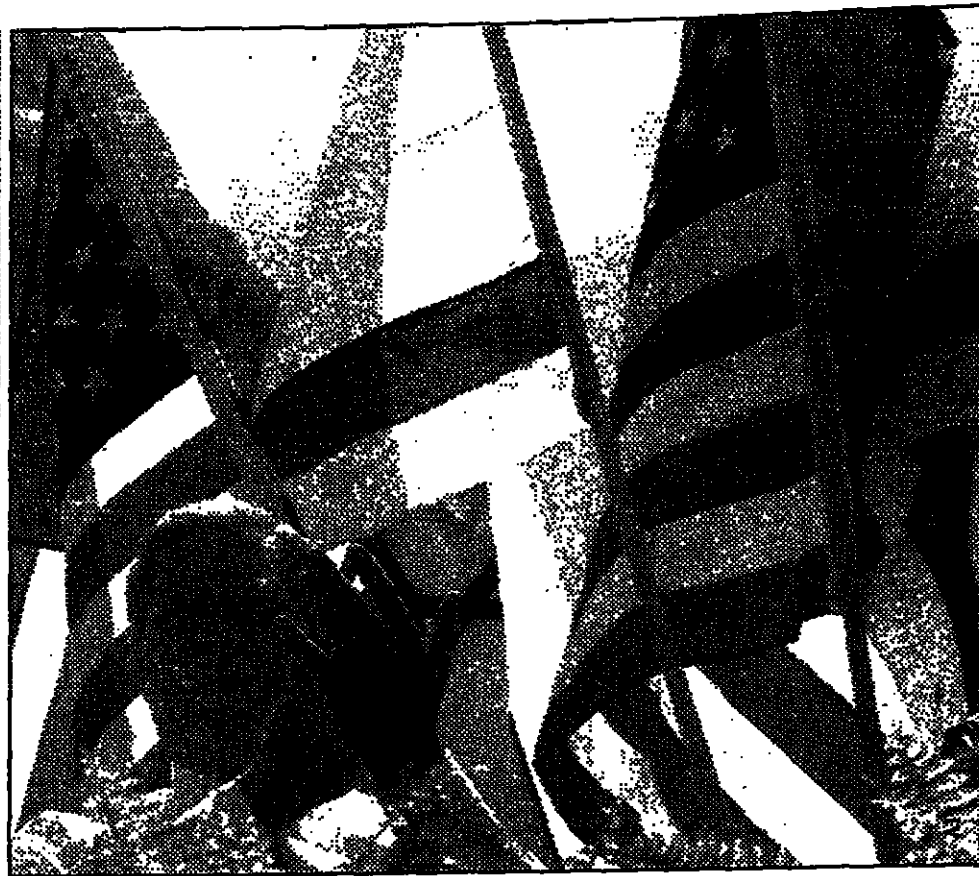
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Polar opposites, united on Israel



Newt Gingrich and Richard Gephardt, the two leaders of the US

House of Representatives, are arriving tomorrow for a jubilee visit. Temperamental and political opposites, they nonetheless share a strong support for Israel. Hillel Kuttler reports from Washington



Newt Gingrich and Richard Gephardt are as temperamentally opposite as two people could be.

Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House: loud, charismatic, with a you-either-love-him-or-you-hate-him personality. Gephardt, the House's Democratic leader: well, none of the above.

Israel is uniting the conservative and liberal torchbearers this weekend for a four-day visit to mark the jubilee. Gingrich believes it is the first congressional delegation a speaker has ever led to the country.

As Gephardt puts it, with a smile: "We don't get along very well on domestic [affairs]. We don't have any personal problem; we just disagree on most things." But on their traveling together to Israel, he says: "There's a message here, that two people who disagree on most issues do agree on this issue, and I think that's important."

Gingrich and Gephardt are contemporaries, born two years apart in the early 1940s, joining Congress two years apart in the late 1970s, and both considering runs for the presidency in 2000.

"I would say to the Palestinians that they would get much further towards peace by accepting reality"

— House Speaker Newt Gingrich

They are also solidly pro-Israel, drawing appreciation throughout organized Jewry.

Gingrich is a longtime advocate of moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem and upbraided the administration two weeks ago for pressuring Israel in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Gephardt was a leader in the mid-1980s in passing the Israel-US Free Trade Agreement.

To be sure, both before and since becoming Speaker in 1994, Gingrich has been the more outspoken of the two on Middle East issues, and in the international

arena generally. This week, for example, he formed a special House panel to investigate whether Chinese campaign contributions influenced the Clinton administration's decision to permit the sale of satellite technology to Beijing.

While Gingrich is a frequent critic of US President Bill Clinton, it is Senate minority leader Tom Daschle, rather than Gephardt, who most often makes the Democrats' case.

But on substance, to choose between them is to split hairs. AIPAC's former director Morris Amitay defines them as: "Gephardt, the consistent supporter; Gingrich, the consistent and vocal supporter."

In interviews on Wednesday in their well-appointed offices in the Capitol building, both Gingrich and Gephardt stressed the endurance of bipartisanship in Congress' support for Israel, as symbolized by their joint visit. They reiterated that the Clinton administration should not be dictating terms of a peace agreement to Israel or the Palestinians.

They also credited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for making progress in his 1996

pledge to gradually wean Israel off its annual \$1.2 billion economic aid package.

GINGRICH AND Gephardt arrive tomorrow with their wives, Marianne and Jane, respectively. They are bound to make a splash on Jerusalem's Derech Hebron on Monday when they hold a press conference calling for the US to break ground there and build its embassy, as it is bound to do by next May under 1995 legislation, cosponsored by Gingrich.

Both Gephardt and Gingrich reject the suggestion that the event will anger Palestinians.

"I don't see it that way, and I wouldn't want people to see it that way," says Gephardt, sitting on a red sofa beneath a painting of the Eads Bridge, which spans the Mississippi River in his native St. Louis.

"We will make it clear that our bill says what it says, and we will explain that. But it is not meant to be provocative or to try to pre-empt what the final decisions will be."

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to be at the embassy site," says Gingrich, alternately chugging a can of Diet Coke and rubbing one foot against the other, without shoes.

His office is just meters from the Capitol's Rotunda, where he had seen Yitzhak Rabin at a congressional Jerusalem 3000 celebration, a week before Rabin's assassination.

"No sophisticated person can have any doubt that Jerusalem is going to remain the capital of Israel. No Israeli government can give up Jerusalem — period."

"Furthermore, there's no other country in the world where we don't accept the capital as defined by the state. We don't say to the Chinese: 'We'll be glad to put our embassy in Shanghai.'"

"I would say to the Palestinians that they would get much further towards peace by accepting reality. Whatever happens to the Palestinian claim, Jerusalem clearly will remain the capital of Israel. Whether there are arrangements made between the Palestinians and Israel to accommodate a Palestinian interest is between the Palestinians and Israel."

IN ISRAEL, the group, which includes Appropriations Committee chairman Robert Livingston, will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, among others.

They will also see King Hussein in Jordan before going on to Bosnia. After that, Gephardt continues to Russia and Poland, and Gingrich to Rome.

The delegation is seeking an audience on Wednesday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Gingrich plans to tell Arafat the same thing in private that he has stated many times publicly: "that it's very disappointing" that Arafat has not altered the PLO Covenant or fought terrorism more forcefully, and that "efforts to incite emotion and violence undermine the peace process."

But Gingrich also wants to offer Arafat a carrot: help in arranging joint ventures between Americans and Palestinians that the speaker sees as a "win-win relationship" for Palestinians and Israelis.

Gingrich says he intends to research the reasons why the administration's attempt at just such a project, Builders for Peace, collapsed after four years. His plan, he hopes, will turn out better.

"I don't think you can give up," he says. "If you don't find a way to have joint ventures creating wealth, I don't know of any way to create the environment in which people can feel positive about a better future."

GEHARDT SEES himself as such a person. He is a self-described optimist, preferring to see the peace process, despite the lengthy stalemate, as a work in progress that will ultimately succeed.

A dose of positive thinking, he maintains, would do the Israelis and Palestinians a world of good, too.

"I think it's important always to step back from the day-to-day, back-and-forth and understand the progress that's been made. This has been a long, difficult road," Gephardt says, his left arm gesturing across the sofa's top in the direction of a bust depicting Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A dose of positive thinking would do the Israelis and Palestinians a world of good: "I think we're too near-sighted in the way we look at all this and too negative, and both tendencies hurt the peace process"

— House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt

"It's always slow, it's always difficult, there are always complications. There are always interruptions and setbacks as you go along. That's the nature of any peace process, and certainly this one."

"I'm very optimistic and take the long view and I see the glass as half-full, not half-empty. We need to be more positive. I also think positive thinking helps make further breakthroughs. I think we're too near-sighted in the way we look at all this and too negative, and both tendencies hurt the peace process."

Gingrich has not said so outright, but his record indicates he is not convinced that Israel and the Palestinians can reach peace. He is hopeful, he says. While favoring a negotiated peace, he is as publicly skeptical of Arafat's intentions as Netanyahu is.

Over the past month, Congress challenged what it feared was Washington's looming showdown with Jerusalem over American proposals for an Israeli redeployment. A majority of both houses sent Clinton a series of letters urging him to stay the course in the peace process and to not publicly pressure Israel. Both Gingrich and Gephardt signed the House letter.

Some in the administration criticized Congress's actions and claimed that Republicans were pandering to the American Jewish community to draw political support and campaign funding. Not surprisingly, Gingrich is a

lighting rod for those charges. The day after Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's London statements laying out conditions for Israel to attend a White House summit, Gingrich convened a press conference in the Capitol to denounce the maneuver as a bullying tactic.

He had earlier invited Democrats to join him on the podium, but they declined and staged their own press event an hour later.

And on Tuesday, he compared Washington's perceived ultimatum to Jerusalem to an Israeli diplomat's telling the US he had a "better way to defend Texas" or wanting to "redefine the Canadian-American border because we know it better than you do."

ASKED ABOUT Gingrich's attacks, Gephardt says that discussing the issue further would exacerbate the situation.

"I don't want to characterize it," he says with a chuckle. "That's counterproductive. I don't want to criticize others for being counterproductive."

"I hope they aren't. I hope everything we're doing on both sides of the political aisle in the US is nothing but helpful. We just need to work hard to try to keep it that way."

Gephardt says he signed the House letter to Clinton out of a belief that the administration's job is only to be a convener. He doesn't think that process by publicly stating positions that he wants the parties to take. I don't think we've done that."

Gingrich, in his interview, says much the same except that he believes the administration has already gone beyond the facilitator role.

Both leaders also have an open mind on Netanyahu's reported interest in securing an additional \$1 billion in American aid to cover security-related costs of all Israeli redeployments through a final peace agreement with the PA.

Gephardt will not "rule anything in or out," saying that Congress will "try to be helpful and supportive in making the mechanical progress go forward."

Says Gingrich: "As a one-time transition payment, if we could participate as we are in Ireland and elsewhere, we would want to be helpful... just as we have in Sinai."

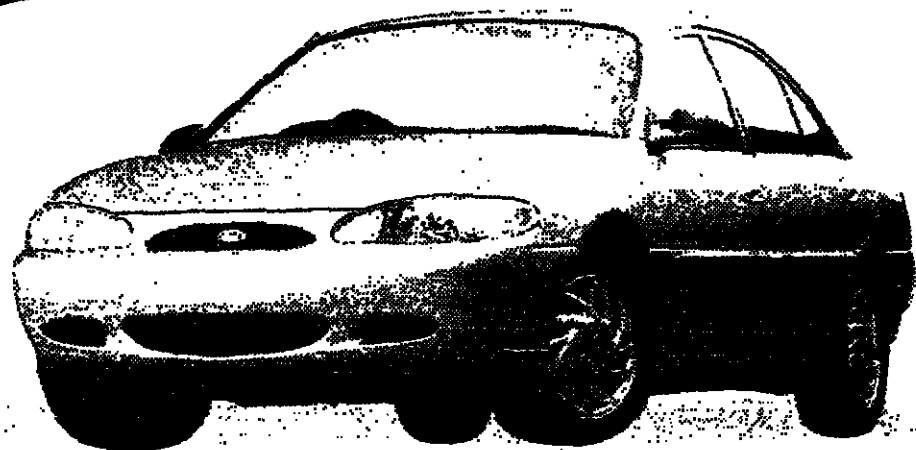
"I agree with Netanyahu that it's very important to get to a final agreement that then allows you to make the investment in security, using electronic and other assets."

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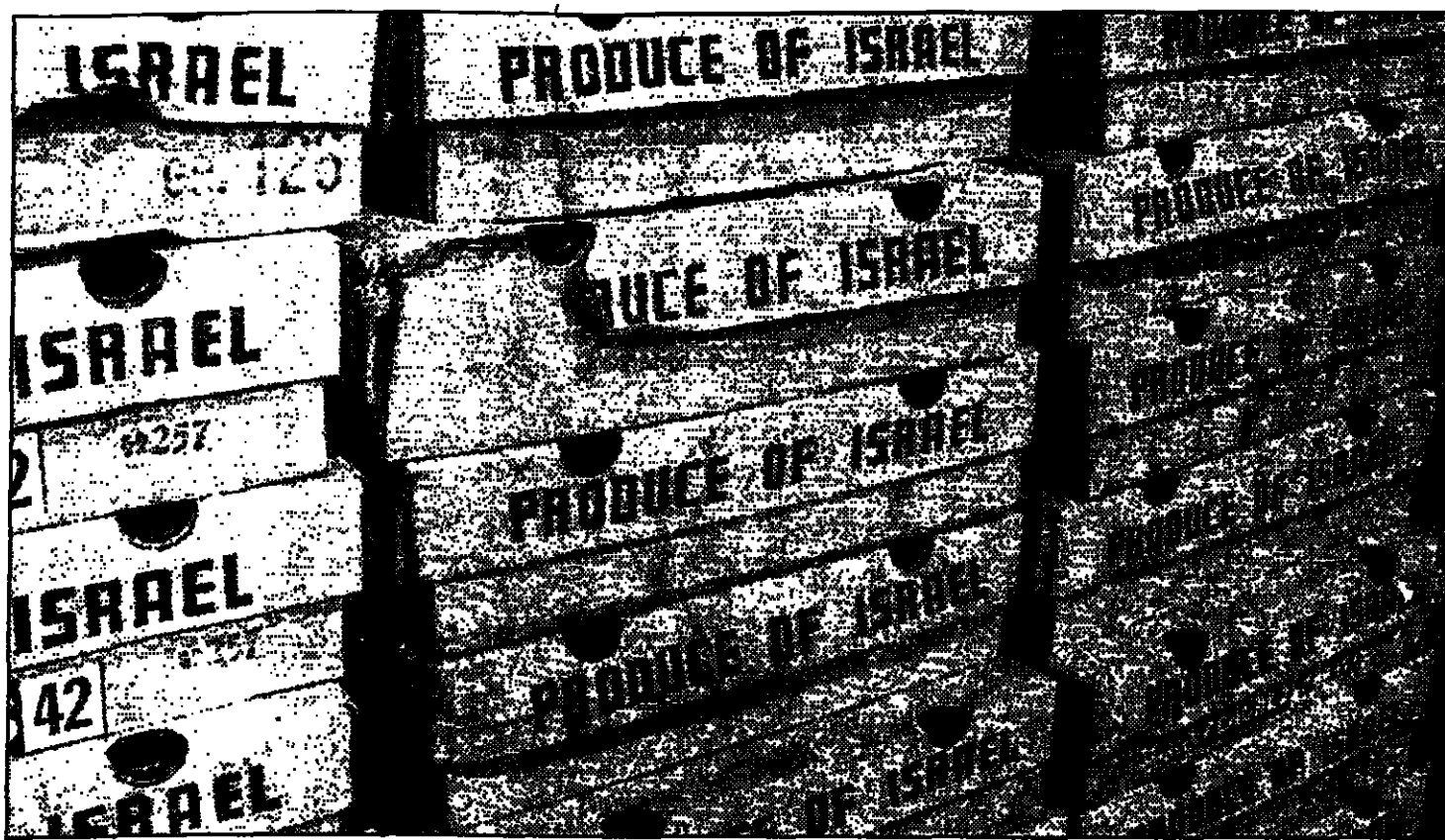
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Israeli fruit for export: Produce grown over the Green Line has been stamped 'Made in Israel' and sold duty-free in Europe since 1975. (David Rubinger)

Flowers and furor

Despite the general impression fostered by the local media, the European Union's chief complaint against Israel is not that "settler" products are being sneaked into Europe and sold duty-free. Rather, said an EU diplomatic source, the main objection is that Israeli officials are making it "nearly impossible" for Palestinians to export their own goods duty-free to the continent.

Furthermore, if Israel allowed Palestinian farmers and manufacturers to export their products directly to Europe, instead of through Israeli middlemen, then the problem of Israeli "settler" products coming into Europe could likely be worked out, the source added.

After all, Israeli goods grown or manufactured over the Green Line — in the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights or post-1967 Jerusalem — have been stamped "Made in Israel" and sold duty-free in Europe roughly since the EU signed a free-trade agreement with Israel in 1975. The EU knew this, of course, but never made an issue out of it until this past year, when it became increasingly dismayed by the Netanyahu government's handling of the peace process, the source noted.

Israeli trade officials, meanwhile, say the claim that they are harassing Palestinian exporters is complete nonsense.

"We're doing the Palestinians a favor," said Zvi Alon, the Agriculture Ministry's deputy director-general for foreign trade. Palestinian exporters actually asked Israel to sell their goods in Europe, knowing that there was no way they could match Israel's powerhouse marketing network on the continent, Alon said.

Palestinian trade officials, however, say the EU is rightly echoing the complaints they've been making against Israel for quite some time.

And although Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman gave the impression after meeting with EU representatives on Wednesday that the

The European Union sparked a diplomatic row when it blasted Israel for labeling exports manufactured over the Green Line as "Made in Israel." Larry Derfner discovers there is some truth in Israel's counter-charge that the EU is politically motivated in raising the issue now

conflict with Europe had been defused, the EU says it hasn't.

While agreeing with Neeman that the EU is not threatening any boycott or sanctions against Israeli products, David Kriss, press officer for the EU delegation in Israel, said, "To the best of my knowledge there has been absolutely no change in the [EU's] position, and what was said in the communications [containing the complaints against Israel] still stands."

EU ministers are expected to discuss the matter in a meeting on Monday or two weeks afterward, Kriss added.

The EU's accusations last week about "settler" products and harassment of Palestinian exporters caused a furor in Israel. Prime Minister Netanyahu threatened to retaliate by freezing Europe out of the peace process, and by making it harder for Palestinians to work in Israel. Zalman Shoval, incoming ambassador to the US, said the EU's position was reminiscent of boycotts against Jewish products during the Nazi era.

That provoked a retort by Miguel Marin, head of the EU's relations with Israel and the Mediterranean region, who said Europe did not intend to listen to "lectures from Tel Aviv."

The EU diplomatic source inter-

viewed for this article said EU officials in Brussels are "surprised" that Netanyahu is "holding the Palestinians ransom" over the dispute, and that Shoval's remarks "caused a lot of dismay" in the EU capital.

The EU diplomatic source noted that the objections made last week about "settler" products and harassment of Palestinian exporters were first raised last July in a letter from Marin to then-Foreign Minister David Levy. "But nothing was done about it," the source added.

Asked why the matter was being pressed now, the source replied, "If you ask me would we have done this during the Rabin administration, when the peace process was at its height, the answer is that we didn't do it. There was a different political atmosphere then, a sense that everyone was working for a common cause. As for why we didn't blow the whistle then and are blowing the whistle now, you can draw your own conclusions."

The EU, he explained, is emphasizing the Palestinian exporters' difficulties, not the problem of "settler" products, because the EU, as the PA's largest foreign donor, has become fed up watching the Palestinian economy go from bad to worse during the peace process.

"Europe is putting a lot of money into the PA to try to get it to

stand on its feet, and we feel that every closure of the territories or other interference with the Palestinian economy [causes] us to put more burdens on European taxpayers," the source said.

Palestinian exporters who want to stamp their products "Made in Palestine" and export them duty-free to Europe "face a mountain of petty procedures that makes their life very difficult," the source said. "Often Palestinian exporters come to the conclusion that it's easier to sell their [agricultural] products to [Israel's agricultural marketing agency] Agrexco," which in turn stamps them "Made in Israel" and sends them on to Europe, the source added. Any Palestinian trying to export directly to Europe "is a brave man," the source said.

The main problems for Palestinian exporters come at the Erez checkpoint and Ashdod port, where Israeli officials typically hold up their goods for lengthy security or trade inspections, said Sa'id Sha'ath, in charge of international relations for the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce.

"We sell 80 million flowers a year, for example. Flowers have to be exported within 24 hours of being picked, but sometimes they're held up for 48 hours, by which time they're ready to be thrown out," Sha'ath said. "[Israeli officials] always say it's security, security, as if there's a bomb in the flowers." Asked if Israeli officials weren't justified in checking Palestinian trucks for explosive devices, Sha'ath insisted there was no justification for the inspections taking so long.

Palestinian flower growers could sell their flowers directly to Europe for 80 cents each, but because of the difficulties, prefer to sell their crops to the Israel Flower Council at 10 cents each. The council, Sha'ath continued, then stamps the consignments "Grown in Israel," flies them to Europe and sells them for the full 80-cent price.

The Palestinian exporter hardly



Produce from Gaza undergoing a security check at the Erez checkpoint: Palestinians claim Israeli officials hold up their goods unnecessarily. (David Rubinger)

makes any profit this way, he said, but it's better than marking his crop "Made in Palestine" and letting it go completely to waste in trucks kept standing for days, he said.

Asked why he thought Israel was making life so hard for Palestinian exporters, Sha'ath replied, "They want us to remain dependent on them, they don't want us to develop an independent economy."

Yet the Agriculture Ministry's Alon, who is himself a moshav flower grower and chairman of the Israel Flower Council, is infuriated by the charges. "It's such total, absolute rubbish. This is what the Palestinian politicians say because it's not easy for them to admit that they don't have the ability to export on their own. It's not pleasant for them to admit that they prefer exporting through Agrexco or the Flower Council," Israel, he said, has spent decades learning how to sell produce at European standards, in price competition with African and South American farmers who pay their hired hands \$1 a day. "It's about as easy as paring the Red Sea. Maybe in three or four years a few Palestinians will be up to it, but not now." The Flower Council, he insisted, does not discriminate between Palestinian and Israeli growers — they pay the same commission to the council, and get the same monetary return when the flowers are sold at European auctions.

Palestinians see the obvious advantages of having Israel export their goods to Europe. Alon continued. For instance, if a Palestinian flower exporter tried to fly his relatively small crop separately to Europe, he would have to pay \$1,500 a ton.

But by going in with the Flower Council, which gets lower cargo

Reading the EU

The trade dispute between Israel and the European Union stems from differing interpretations of three treaties: the 1975 EU-Israel free trade accord, the 1994 Paris economic agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and the 1997 EU-Palestinian free trade pact.

The EU says its free-trade agreement with Israel does not apply to "settler" products because Europe does not recognize any territory over the Green Line as being part of Israel, Israel, however, is of the opinion

that products produced over the Green Line can legally be marked "Made in Israel."

The EU further says the Paris accord between Israel and the PA allows the Palestinians to sign their own trade agreements with other countries or entities, while Israel's reading of the Paris accord is that it allows economic cooperation agreements, but that this does not mean independent trade agreements. The EU maintains its own free-trade agreement with the Palestinians is legal, while Israel says it's not.

rates because it exports in such high volume, the Palestinian pays \$800 a ton, just like the Israeli growers, Alon explained. "I don't know anything about security checks, but security is security. Beyond that, what reason do we have to harass them? Believe me, we're not worried about competition from the Palestinians. We're going above and beyond the call of duty for them," Alon maintains.

This, however, is not the story the EU has been hearing from the Palestinian side. The EU source said that if Israel allowed Palestinians to export directly to Europe, then the EU would probably be able to reach an agreement with Israel allowing "settler" products to come into Europe duty-free, and the matter would be closed. Israel would have to use some "imagination" in identifying these products, to Europe's satisfaction, the source added. They could not be marked

"Israel," because Europe doesn't recognize their points of origin as Israel. "Neither could they be marked," say, "Judea and Samaria," the source said, "because the occupied territories are a red flag for us." New Israeli ideas, though, will be welcome. "We will be happy to talk about them," he said.

But while it was dissatisfaction with Netanyahu's handling of the peace process that sparked the protest, the EU still has substantive complaints of Israel trade violations that must be addressed, the source continued. "Once you've raised detailed objections on legal grounds, they must be resolved in the proper way," he insisted.

Might the EU decide to let the matter pass if the Netanyahu government reached an agreement with the PA on the second redeployment, and the peace process was revived?

"I don't think so," the source replied. "We don't work that way."

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Stand and deliver?

Launched last month in America as an impotence treatment – and now available here – Viagra is proving the most successful drug since Prozac. Ordinary American men are clamoring for it, believing it will transform their sexual prowess, but feminists say its success is a sad indictment of the state men are in. There was only one way to decide... Charles Laurence takes the virility pill

We light the scented candle and dim the bulbs to an amber glow, evict the car and close the bedroom door. Embroidered black lingerie offers its Parisian accent to all the most alluring bits as my beloved stretches across fresh white linen, and smiles.

Steadying my hand against the tremors of anticipation, I pour mineral water into crystal tumblers and pop the lid off a brown plastic pill bottle.

Inside is treasured booty: 10 little tablets, diamond-shaped and the color of a summer evening sky. They are Viagra, the "Pfizer Riser," the latest version of the love potion we men have sought since time immemorial, the one to guarantee male pride and passion. Only this one is from the laboratories of late 20th-century science rather than the cauldrons of witchcraft and snake oil. Doctors seem to be convinced that it works.

In America, it costs \$10 a pill, available by prescription only (in Israel it's NIS 62 a pill). In the first three weeks of legal availability 300,000 prescriptions were filled. The share value of Pfizer Inc., a research-based pharmaceutical company, have risen 60 per cent as Viagra outsells even Prozac, the last prescription dope to achieve the status of a household name.

Sales should top \$300 million this year, and more than \$1 billion a year thereafter. Doctors have been ordering rubber stamps to ease their writer's cramp. One has even been flogging prescriptions via e-mail.

Viagra is being marketed as a cure for impotence. It works directly on the blood supply to the genitals – female as well as male, although it is not yet recommended for ladies – and is the first drug that can claim to be a proper physical cure for "erectile dysfunction."

It opens the gates to the blood supply necessary to inflate the penis, while closing the gates that allow it to drain away again for the return to flaccidity.

The trick that has the urologists and sexologists buzzing – along with their customers – is that it will do this in 80 per cent of cases regardless of whether impotence is caused by old age, psychological hang-ups or the results of surgery for such conditions as prostate cancer.

"This," says Dr. Fernando Borges of the Florida Impotency Center in a celebrated evaluation, "is pretty close to the magic bullet. There is talk of Viagra parties. The nation is braced for the plunge into a geriatric Satyricon."

But, as *Time* magazine shrewdly spotted when it elevated Viagra to the status of cover story, the drug has instantly been perceived and adopted as a potency pill. This is different from being merely a cure for impotency.

Who among us would hesitate to shell out \$10 a pill for added potency, for that magnificent one to have the girls bowing as if before the Great Corn King? There is bound to be a burgeoning black market for this.

The pill and its promise are simply the perfect fit with the zeitgeist, the culture of the times in Millennial America. As the pundits never tire of telling, the fin de siècle sees the fabled Baby Boom generation passing their own half-centuries with their organs weakening but their aspirations and demands for self-gratification as perky as ever.

"It's not just a pharmaceutical

word in this case – and has never been one to underestimate the value of sex to good health.

"How much do you get?" he had asked on a first visit, immediately after taking the pulse and berating the tobacco habit.

"You think you're the first patient?" he went on. "No. The sixth today. The others are all calling their urologists. OK, so you can try it. I don't mind. But let me give you some advice: Best thing has always been black or red underwear, and a little aggression from the lady. That I always recommend."

The pharmacist sniggers as he fills the little brown bottle, but is

"You think you're the first patient?" my Manhattan doctor asks. "No. The sixth today. OK, so you can try it. But let me give you some advice: Best thing has always been black or red underwear"

product," says Hemant Shah, a drug-industry specialist. "It's a social phenomenon."

LIFE in 1998 is good. America bestrides the world market place, Wall Street is spinning straw into gold, gas-guzzler V8s are back in the car showrooms and gasoline is cheap. And now there is great, anxiety-free sex available at the pop of a pill.

We Baby Boomers have few plans to grow old, and none at all to limp off into our sunsets. Our priorities are revealed in pharmaceuticals: Seven times as much Viagra was sold in the first two weeks as Propecia, the wonder-cure for baldness.

So with the children safely tucked away for the night, we swallow our pills and eagerly await the onset of our new Lifestyle Option. The bottle tells me only "1 to 2 Tabs as Needed," but the magazines and newspaper stories have already spelled out the instructions.

Take between 50mg and 100mg, one tab or two, approximately one hour before sexual activity is to begin. Arousal is not automatic, as it has been with Viagra's crude predecessor, the injection straight to the base of the penis, so normal stimulation and erotic foreplay is recommended. Then just carry on until the earth moves.

"What do you need this stuff for?" my Manhattan doctor asked when I telephoned with a plea for a prescription. "Not working any more? What happened to that pretty girlfriend of yours? With a girl like that, you shouldn't be needing this Viagra stuff."

He is in his 80s, established in one of those outrageously expensive clinics with his own nurses, radiographers and accountants in a town house on Millionaires' Row. He peppers his diagnoses with Yiddish – *schlong* is the

happy to run the credit card for his \$100. He reveals rather smugly that he bought Pfizer shares in good time, after spotting a headline in the *Wall Street Journal*. A couple of old women waiting for their prescriptions look me up and down. No one has missed the Viagra story.

IT SEEMS a bit odd at first, snuggled under the quilt against a sudden evening chill, trying to resist the urge simply to drift off into a nice long sleep. Plenty of Boomers, no doubt, have 60s memories of love enhanced by all sorts of stimulants, but this is different. I can't feel a thing.

Viagra, according to the Pfizer press release, is at this moment "increasing the blood flow to the penis necessary for establishing and maintaining an erection. The drug accomplishes this by selectively blocking the enzyme phosphodiesterase type 5, which breaks down cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), a necessary component in allowing blood to flow into the penis."

Really? Everything seems normal to me. And then, rather suddenly and without much of an erotic overture, comes an urge to visit the bathroom.

A Dr. Ian Osterloh, who has been described as "a diffident Englishman with narrow shoulders, a receding chin and a complexion the color of typing paper," was exploring the possibilities of Viagra's active ingredient in the control of angina and hypertension. He gave it to some British volunteers.

The guinea pigs came back and reported that while his drug failed to lower their blood pressure, it did a great job in raising their erections.

We keep an eye on the clock. Since, truth to tell and touching wood, we are in the enhancing majority tonight rather than the

impotent minority, we don't want to spoil things by getting going before we have a chance to block that phosphodiesterase 5 and experience the primal joy of the satyr at the peak of his powers.

The beloved, cheeks nicely flushed, wants to know what she can expect, so we fetch our issue of *Time* announcing that Yes! Viagra works! Rather kindly, she suggests that we can do without little blue pills for quality, but she would always be ready to consider quantity.

We ponder the "downside" table of potential side-effects: headaches, blue-tinted vision, blackouts if you are on nitroglycerine treatment for low blood pressure, priapism (which means stuck with an erection for four hours or more) and even coital coronaries.

All but the headaches are actually unlikely, and we decide it is a bit late to worry now.

The potential social effects of the erectile magic bullet are more amusing. In an age of feminism and even "girl power," it seems the man has been in danger of emasculation, and thus flaccidity. This pill could save the gender.

Watch out, girls, I have eight left and according to Bob Guccione of *Penthouse* magazine I am newly empowered.

But Camille Paglia, "post-feminist" critic of American academia, seems to see a darker rationale for the fading of masculinity: In America, 30 million men suffer from erectile dysfunction, half of whom are under the age of 65. And that's only the ones who admit it.

"The erection is the last gasp of modern manhood," she opines. "If men can't continue to produce erections, they're going to evolve themselves right out of the human species. I want men to really examine why they need this pill. It's like the steel they would get if they were at war."

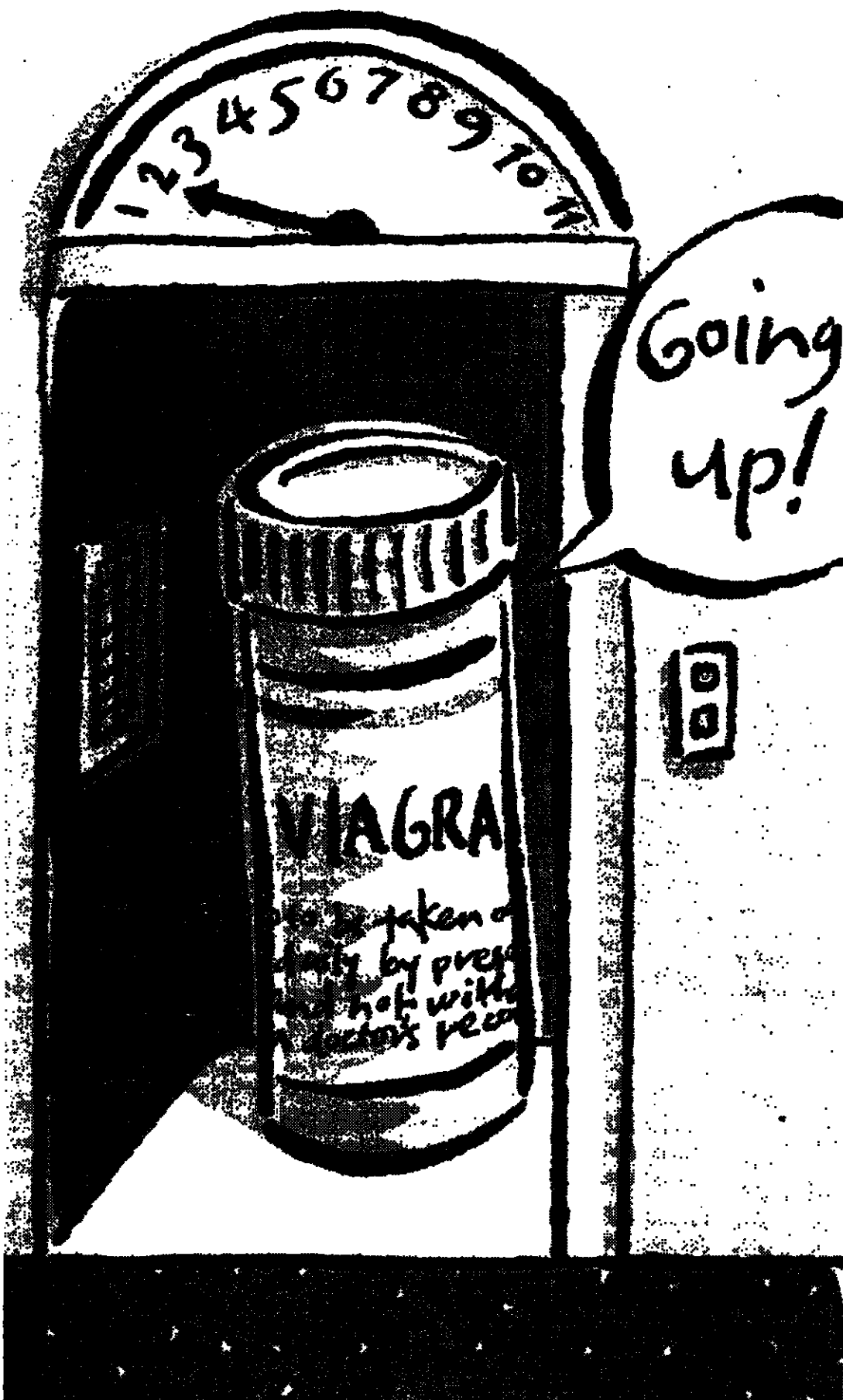
Nancy Friday, a best-selling author on sexual fantasy, adds that "it is frightening to be a male these days. We are a performance-orientated society, and sex has always been to the woman's advantage."

This could make me nervous and undo all the potential glory of my Viagra.

Steel? War? Performance? Hey! I just want to make love! Old Dr. Ruth Westheimer, prototypical media sex guru, offers a little comfort with the view that "even if a man has an erection from floor to ceiling and can keep it that way for an hour, it will not be pleasurable for a woman if he is not sexually literate." The beloved doubts this, and suggests that Dr. Ruth may have just revealed her own fantasy.

In the *New York Times*, columnist Maureen Dowd has also made it clear that however satyr-like our doctors may make us chaps, we will never satisfy our nymphs.

"Sorry, guys, but it's more com-



plicated than that," she writes. "An unscientific poll of my girlfriends found that they would rather have a pill that could change a man's personality an hour after sex. A pill that ensures that he always calls the next day and never gets spooked."

Oh, no. Guys, we've got to be "from floor to ceiling," hard as

THE HOUR is almost up, and I can only hang on in hope that Guccione has got it right. "This pill will take the pressure off men," he believes. "It will lead to new relationships between men and women and undercut the feminist agenda."

Doctors, responsible lot that they of course are, have said

Rather kindly, my beloved suggests that we can do without little blue pills for quality, but she would always be ready to consider quantity

steel, and sensitive, considerate and compliant to those tender emotional demands.

Why, the beloved now wants to know, am I looking sulky and sitting there with my arms crossed defensively across my chest?

Viagra is of no use to those whose parts work as nature intended. The stuff should not, they say, be taken for kicks, or kick-enhancement, because it will add nothing to pleasure or procreation. They may not be speaking the truth.

A night of blue-tinged love is far from a proper clinical trial. It may simply have been the giggle-factor that got us going at midnight, three and seven.

The ringing of the alarm clock was not well received. The headaches endured all morning may have been the dreaded side-effect, or may simply have been from the whiskey and not much sleep.

It may, on the other hand, be that the inflammatory media proclamation – it works! – is correct. Personally, I felt no horns growing on my brow, no warrior spirit of gender-war aggression suffusing the loins and no steel inserted by scarcely pronounceable, highly profitable enzymes.

But, given the times of feminist domination, perhaps the verdict should rest with the lady. "I think," she pronounced, rather groggily, "that it was bigger."

(The Daily Telegraph)

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Regulating a society's values

There are many similarities between the constitutional climates of Israel and Canada, says Irwin Cotler. Underlying them is a shared social and legal culture.

Both countries, the McGill University law professor and international human rights expert points out, are parliamentary democracies which for many decades conducted their affairs without a written constitution.

Both have a mixed legal heritage that includes civil and common law. Both reject the absolute separation of church and state, and both are concerned with group rights, as opposed to the US, for example, which emphasizes individual rights.

Finally, both countries are multicultural – they recognize the rights not only of linguistic minorities, but also of national minorities.

In a speech at Haifa University in 1992, in which he coined the now-famous term "constitutional revolution" to describe the recently approved Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom and Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak pointed out that the Israeli "mini-constitution" was modeled after the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Legal experts from Israel and Canada met last week at Tel Aviv University to consider the constitutional revolution that took place in 1982 in Canada, and a decade later in Israel. The discussion was sponsored by the Canada-Israel Legal Cooperation Program and the Raphael Taubenschlag Institute of Criminal Law, and speakers included Barak, now Supreme Court president, Israeli Supreme Court Justice Yitzhak Zamir, retired justice Menahem Elon, and Canadian Supreme Court justices Frank Iacobucci and Ian Binnie.

THE PARALLELS between the two countries soon emerged – as in the session entitled "Litigating the Values of a Nation: Principles and Perspectives."

The controversy over judicial review – the right of the High Court to review and, if deemed necessary, reject parliamentary legislation – is not just an Israeli thing. While Elon was pitted against Barak over how active the court should be in interpreting the constitution and testing regular laws against it, he had his Canadian counterpart in Binnie, while Barak had his in Iacobucci.

How legitimate is judicial review? Does it go hand-in-hand with a constitution? Dan Izenberg followed a debate between legal luminaries from Israel and Canada in Tel Aviv last week

Binnie said that while politicians acquire their legitimacy from the vote, the only legitimacy appointed judges can claim is as adjudicators in cases where there are clear-cut rules.

Historically, he continued, litigation has been used to resolve concrete disputes like property claims or ship collisions. Judges come from the Bar, and are used to dealing with the business world.

"What, then, justifies the judge from stepping into the role of philosopher?" Binnie asked. "The whole process built up over the years in litigation to determine the correctness or otherwise of adjudicative facts has very little relevance in getting at fundamental values."

Binnie also charged that

When our legislature says 'dignity' who decides what dignity is? The legislature? If so, we don't have a constitution. But Israel has decided it wants one

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak

Canada's constitution has been written in such general terms that judges read into it whatever values they wish on the basis of what he called "non-traditional" judicial reasoning.

Iacobucci said he was disturbed by some of the public criticism leveled against the Canadian courts in their dealings with the legislative branch; for example, the controversy that erupted over the Vriens case.

Vrien, explained Iacobucci, was a homosexual who was dismissed from his job as a laboratory coordinator at a religious school in the province of Alberta on grounds of his sexual preference. He wanted to file a complaint with the Alberta Human Rights

Commission, but was advised not to because Alberta human rights legislation did not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Nonetheless, Vrien sued the province, challenging the constitutionality of sections of the law.

The trial judge, said Iacobucci, "quite boldly and courageously" found that the failure to outlaw discrimination on sexual grounds in the provincial law was a violation of the equality section of the Charter, and ordered that the words "sexual orientation" be read into it. The Alberta government appealed to the provincial court of appeals and won. The case then went to the Supreme Court, which unanimously overruled the provincial court.

The decision caused a storm of controversy all over the country, in which the judges were accused of substituting their values for those of freely elected representatives. But, said Iacobucci, the constitution itself says quite clearly that there is a role for the courts to play in interpreting the charter and its provisions in a way that gives efficacy to the constitution and to the remedy appropriate in any given case.

In response, Barak commented that he couldn't understand a dispute over the legitimacy of judicial review in Canada, where the mechanism is written into the constitution itself.

In Israel, where there is no supremacy clause in the two basic human rights laws, the dispute is understandable from a literal point of view, he said, though not from a logical one.

"Those who argue against judicial review should be arguing against the constitution," Barak said. "...These people say they want the legislature to be free. Their views should be noted and a decision should be reached... by the politicians. Let them decide."

"Either they want a constitution, or they don't. If they don't, there will be no judicial review." But if a nation decides it wants a constitution, Barak says, the need for judicial review is self-evident.

One of the problems, Barak continued, was that the debate preceded

the passage of constitutional legislation is usually over values, with the role of the court in upholding the constitution left dormant. Only afterwards, when the court starts performing its "natural role," do people start asking who gave it the right to do so.

"When our legislature says 'dignity,' what does it expect? Who decides what dignity is? The legislature itself?"

"If the answer is yes, then we don't have a constitution. But Israel has decided that it wants one."

The constitution, Barak continued, is a legal text requiring interpretation. "You can't apply a constitution – as you can't apply a will, a contract, a regulation or a

In any synthesis between the Jewish and democratic elements of law there must be not only a bill of rights but a bill of duties. Perhaps here other systems could learn from Israel

retired justice Menahem Elon

statute – without giving it meaning. The only question is who interprets it.

"Clearly, since the constitution is a legal text to be applied, the court, while adjudicating, must interpret."

The problem is finding the best and truest way to do it. Barak said he has been working on a theory of interpretation for the past 15 years.

"Our main concern must be: How can we judges develop objective, principled techniques? There must be a textual source for the interpretation. We give meaning to the text, but we don't invent it."

Barak added that he wholly supported the Canadian Supreme Court decision on Vrien – not because the justices "read in" the sexual orientation provision to the provincial human rights law from within that law, but because another, and higher, text – the constitution – dictated it.

"The text remains as is, and the text of the Alberta law does not include sexual preference," said Barak. "But the court said: Out of the constitution comes a principle, telling you to add sexual preference to the law as a constitutional

dictate." Barak added that unlike politicians, who are concerned with the short term, judges must consider the deepest meanings of the constitution for society. This attitude, he noted, is understandably bound to create conflicts between the two branches of government. "We should be principled, and we should be criticized," Barak said.

Elon, who served on the bench after the "constitutional revolution" and became Barak's chief opponent until his retirement, said he did not consider the two basic human rights laws a constitution, but rather "of constitutional nature."

"I want to remind you that our 'constitution' was accepted by a simple majority," said Elon. "Less than half the members of the Knesset participated in the vote, which was 24-23 in favor. In a parliament of 120 members, such a vote is like winning 1-0."

Elon also noted that the basic laws do not incorporate the element that distinguishes them from the constitution of any other country: their declared intention to "anchor the values of the state of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state," and not just a democratic state.

Jewish values have been embodied in Jewish legislation for centuries, said Elon. Because the Jewish community in exile was autonomous for most of its history, it fashioned its own legal system, which was pluralistic and humane. From the 7th to the 18th centuries rabbis issued 350,000 responsa. Elon noted that he always tried to include Jewish law in the arguments he used to reach his decisions on the bench.

"We have to find a synthesis between the Jewish and the democratic elements," Elon continued. But, he added, the special contribution of Jewish law is its emphasis on human obligations alongside human rights.

"The synthesis has to create a situation of there being not only basic rights but also basic responsibilities, not just a bill of rights but a bill of duties. And this is a very difficult problem in Western democracies today. The emphasis on self-realization and individual autonomy is so strong worldwide that there are problems in family life, criminal law, and many, many other areas." Perhaps other systems can learn from Israel to synthesize rights and duties, Elon said.

He cited the problem of the homeless. In Israel, he said, there would be no need for any special law because it is against Jewish values to allow the perpetuation of a situation in which there are homeless people.

Elon's presentation, with its emphasis on the uniqueness of the Israeli situation because of its distinctly Jewish character, was one element that may have disturbed the participants' feeling of camaraderie. Another jarring element must have been the bodyguard standing outside the conference room, protecting Barak's life.

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Shopping mall developer David Azrieli (right) with John Beck of the Canadian Highways Investment Corp.

Although surveys indicated that she had little chance of winning, Colette (left) of the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for Western European Affairs, was said to be initially flattered when her name was mentioned as a possible Labor candidate for Tel Aviv mayor. Since she is neither a man nor a senior army officer, the very fact that she was being considered was a supreme compliment. But Avital's superiors were less than thrilled, since Foreign Ministry personnel are supposed to keep their political leanings private. It reportedly didn't take long for Avital to stop feeling flattered and get annoyed at being politically labeled without so much as a by-your-leave. It seems no one asked her if she wanted to run for mayor. They just took it for granted that she'd run on a Labor ticket.

WHEN someone mistakenly introduced Jerusalem Cinematheque founder and director Lia Van Leer as a Worthy of Jerusalem, she corrected them, saying she wasn't yet old enough to be accorded that title. But in the event that anyone might be thinking of giving it to her, she quickly added, she would rather forgo it in favor of a hefty donation to the Cinematheque.

THERE was more than diplomacy at work when David Kimche, president of The Israel Council on Foreign Relations and former director-general of the Foreign Ministry, greeted Swiss President Flavio Cotti. Kimche's great-great-grandparents settled in St. Gallen; his siblings were born in Switzerland, and a brother served in the Swiss army. It was therefore hardly surprising that Kimche had such warm things to say about Switzerland, which recognized Israel in January 1949. In reviewing the friendship between the two countries, Kimche termed it "an exemplary relationship."

AUTHOR Herman Wouk will receive the Guardian of Zion Award from Bar-Ilan University's Ingeborg Remmert Center for Jerusalem Studies on June 2 at a ceremony at the Jerusalem Hilton, where Wouk will deliver the annual Remmert lecture.

FINANCE Minister Yaakov Neeman was scheduled to be guest speaker at the Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce and Industry awards dinner in recognition of business excellence and success in promoting trade and economic relations. But a hernia operation a few days earlier precluded his attendance, causing Dan Propser, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association, to ponder aloud whether the hernia might have been caused by the burden of heavy interest rates.

Referring to Claridge Israel CEO Jonathan Kolber, one of the award recipients, Propser recalled that in 1990, "when Scuds were falling and only crazy people believed in the

economy of Israel and people took planes out of Israel, I sat with Jonathan Kolber in hand, signing the agreement for the entry of Claridge into Osem." Kolber noted that fellow award winner David Azrieli also invested in Israel at a time when very few people wanted to do so. Responded Azrieli: "To be and to work in Israel is a privilege – especially if you make money at the same time."

Canadian ambassador David Berger used the occasion to demonstrate how much progress he's made with his Hebrew, while Yehuda Raveh, president of the chamber, proved just how well some Israelis speak English.

THERE was deafening applause at Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theater's Israel premiere of *Furioso* at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center. At a reception hosted by Australian ambassador Ian Wilcock, Tankard, basking in the glow of positive feedback, declared how happy she was to return to Israel. She was last here in 1981 when she came as a dancer with the Pina Bausch company. She declined to take all the kudos for herself, paying tribute to the dancers "who worked very hard," and to the people working backstage. Wilcock, who confessed that as a rule dance was not his favorite form of entertainment, pronounced *Furioso* "an extraordinary performance" and "a very special treat."

ONE partner lives in Modi'in, the other in Ra'anana. So when Charles Harris and Aaron Weil decided to throw a party to celebrate the second anniversary of their public relations and advertising venture, Coast to Coast, they chose Jerusalem as the venue. They almost had something else to celebrate. Weil's wife, Sharon, who is in her ninth month of pregnancy with their second child, started getting contractions during the first hour of the festivities, but it turned out to be a false alarm.

SPEAKING at the opening of an exhibition at the Knesset of photographs by veteran news photographer and Israel Prize laureate David Rubinger, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon observed that the man with the camera doesn't have to compete for a seat in the Knesset. "His presence has been felt in the Knesset for 50 years," Tichon said.

Rubinger and his camera are almost part of the furniture in the Knesset plenum, in the corridors, and in the various Knesset committees where, over the years, Rubinger has captured events of the day and great moments in the history of the nation. The exhibition represents only a fragment of Rubinger's vast collection which, Tichon noted, could be mounted for numerous future exhibitions.

Rubinger acquired his first camera in Germany at the end of the Second World War in return for a kilo of coffee and 200 cigarettes.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

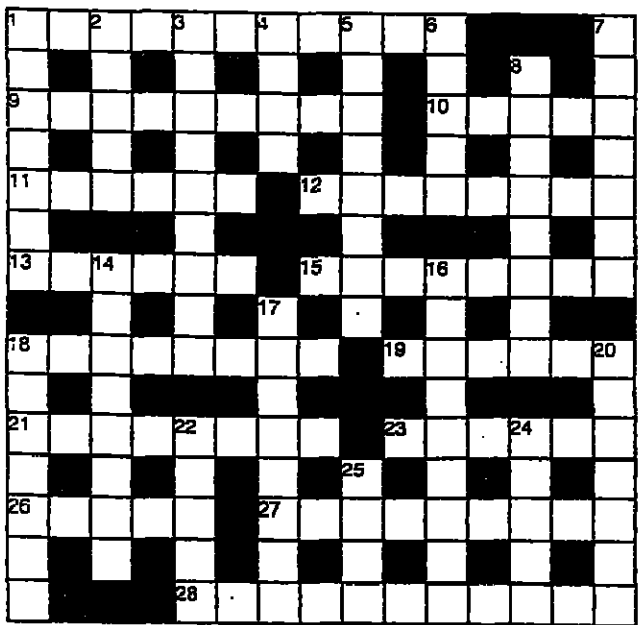
ACROSS

- 1 Taking stock (11)
- 9 French fare for a politician in Connecticut (9)
- 10 Dress for a party with naval personnel (5)
- 11 Trinket from Bengal (6)
- 12 Nice beef stew appreciated by the vicar (8)
- 13 Where the worker looks for transportation cost? (6)
- 15 Most male ailments can be treated (8)
- 18 Maybe salt-and-water mixture is the answer (8)
- 19 Morning exam totally lacking in standards (6)
- 21 Quality goods (8)

- 23 Profit from China's disintegration (4,2)
- 26 Clear that cleric has retreated into sacred books (5)
- 27 Plenty to eat at the bakers' ball? (9)
- 28 Meeting fine lady with marriage in mind (6,5)

DOWN

- 1 Instrument used to make sherry, however (7)
- 2 This sultan was a huge fellow (5)
- 3 Hit by need of illumination (9)
- 4 Supporters produce payment on time (4)



SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Walter, 4 Minute, 7 Wiltshire, 9 Beta, 10 Earl, 11 Safer, 13 Scum, 14 Rested, 15 Lined, 16 Plan, 23 Dashedly, 24 Doctor, 25 Estate.
DOWN: 1 Wobble, 2 Twin, 3 Reheat, 4 Matter, 5 Nine, 6 Exited, 7 Watershed, 8 Desist, 11 Spurn, 12 Reach, 15 Il-fed, 16 Ticker, 17 Score, 18 Dashed, 21 Dart, 22 Pilot.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Leap (6)
- 4 Hollowed out (5)
- 8 Bodily organ (5)
- 9 Russian royal house (7)
- 10 Large tent (7)
- 11 Avoid (4)
- 12 Weep (3)
- 14 Pair (4)
- 15 Old Greek coin (4)
- 18 Poorly lit (3)
- 21 Unusually (4)
- 23 Discourse (7)
- 25 Israeli commune (7)
- 26 Open-mouthed (5)
- 27 Mass meeting (5)
- 28 Urge strongly (5)

DOWN

- 1 Seasoned sausage (6)
- 2 Set-back (7)
- 3 Nourished (5)
- 4 Explosive (4)
- 5 Cattle station (5)
- 6 Theologian (6)
- 7 The Ram (5)
- 13 Claret (8)
- 16 Wild marjoram (7)
- 17 Street musician (8)
- 19 Indian corn (5)
- 20 Agreement (6)
- 22 Tag (5)
- 24 Anchored float (4)

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Dead Sea 31/16

EGYPT
Ellet 35/20

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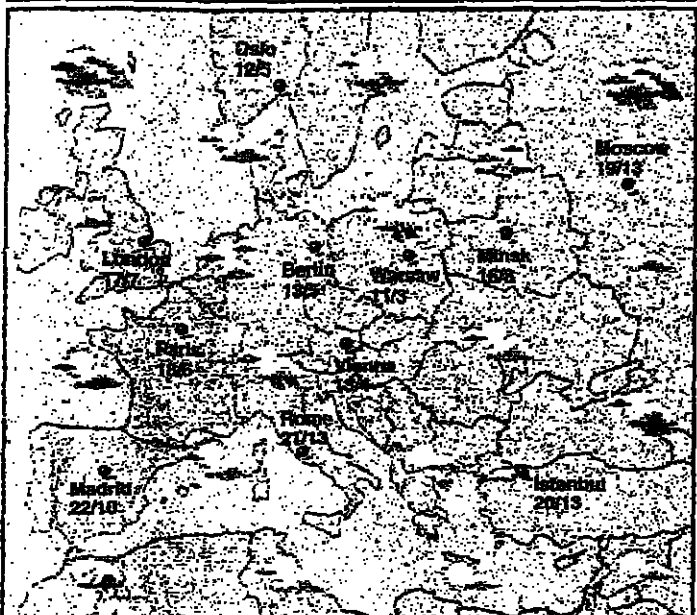
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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



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Celebrating the funds jubilee

For most people, Israel's jubilee commemorates the 50 years since Ben-Gurion declared the State of Israel on May 14, 1948.

For me it means the same and something else as well, something almost as important.

The month following the state's establishment saw the arrival of tens of thousands of immigrants from the displaced persons' camps of Europe and the towns and villages of the Middle East.

The winter of 1948 was the rainy one we always pray for. But for the new immigrants living in tent camps, it was disastrous.

As Hanukkah approached, Jerusalem's Posnik Helen Rossi came up with the idea of collecting used toys from readers whose grown-up children no longer needed them and distributing them to the children living in the camps. That was the start of our Hanukkah Toy Fund that has now expanded into our Toy Fund, our Forsake Me Not Fund and our Welcome Home Fund.

So as we celebrate the state's jubilee, I am also celebrating the jubilee of our Funds.

While the state spends the taxpayer's money on the country's jubilee, I am asking you to give

money for the Funds' jubilee.

Since 1948, the Israeli population has increased tenfold and, judging by the amount of requests for help I receive, we seem to have grown in parallel.

Help celebrate the Funds' 50th year with a special donation to help those in need.

Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 600 Anon., Ra'anana.
NIS 200 Thank you Dr. Rosenzweig - Doris Weller.

NIS 100 In memory of my dear sister, Gladys Lasky - Bella Bar Ness, Nahariya, Dr. Kurt Brinkner, J'm. Shapira, Haifa, Tel Aviv.

NIS 88 Anon.
NIS 54 In loving memory of my sister, Evelyn Sadon, on her third yahrzeit - Ella Barak, Haifa.

NIS 50 In loving memory of my dear

husband, Manny and our parents, Reia and Azriel, Ra'anana, Tel Aviv.
NIS 250 In memory of our daughter, Janice Charach Epstein and our parents, Reia and Azriel, Ra'anana, Tel Aviv.

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SUHARTO

Continued from Page 1

Habibie's swearing-in as Indonesia's third president since the country won independence from the Dutch in 1945 is likely to anger opposition leaders, who may believe Suharto will continue to exercise power from the sidelines.

Last week Suharto told reporters he would like to "guide from behind" if he resigned. He did not elaborate.

Amien Rais, head of Indonesian opposition forces, urged Habibie to consider his job a "temporary profession."

Rais demanded elections to choose a new president within six months.

Habibie is expected to announce his new cabinet today.

In his first address to the nation as president, Habibie pledged to meet all of the country's international commitments, including

those to the International Monetary Fund. The IMF has arranged a \$43 billion aid package, though its implementation has been delayed.

Habibie also held out an olive branch to student protesters, but cautioned that the reform process would proceed "by stages."

Soldiers and tanks still controlled downtown Jakarta, a stark reminder of the tensions remaining after last week's riots. The armed forces commander appealed for calm.

Suharto, 76, surrounded by his top aides and the nation's military chiefs, stepped to the microphone at the presidential palace as a military attaché handed him the resignation letter to read.

Speaking slowly, Suharto said: "For the support and help from the people of Indonesia that I have received during my leadership, I ask for forgiveness if there are any mistakes or shortcomings."

Suharto's resignation settles one question, but opens several other

issues.

Habibie, who owes his rise to Suharto, must seek to prevent a new round of unrest as the country's troubles mount. Last week's riots killed 500 and caused more than \$1b. in damage in Jakarta alone.

Suharto said Habibie would serve out the current presidential term until 2003, though he may turn out to be merely a transition figure if new elections are held.

The newly emboldened opposition movement may continue its challenge to Indonesia's traditional military dominance.

Suharto's family gained control over much of the country's economy under the former president's aegis. Family members and cronies may well find themselves more exposed.

There was no immediate indication of what Suharto, a retired general, plans to do now that he has stepped down.

After his resignation, the ruling Golkar party said Suharto would

remain as chairman of its advisory board, at least until October.

At the White House, US President Bill Clinton welcomed Suharto's resignation, saying it "provides an opportunity to begin a process leading to a real democratic transition for Indonesia."

Just two days after promising a gradual transition of leadership, Suharto stood before his nation, telling them the end had come.

His drab, short-sleeved shirt contrasted with the ornate trappings of the Istana Merdeka palace, where he had received scores of world leaders since assuming power in 1966.

Looking stunned, Suharto left the palace for the last time as leader, helped into a waiting black Mercedes-Benz limousine by his eldest daughter, Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana.

As a cabinet minister in the outgoing government, she came to symbolize the rampant corruption and nepotism that have plagued the country.

DWELLINGS

Sharon Area

Beautiful 300 sq.m. cottage in perfect position, excellent finish, light airy basement, possible separate entrance. Asking \$850,000

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Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisEilat gives
it away
Maccabi TA takes
2-0 hoops lead

By ELI GRONER

Final preparations were made last night for this year's annual Maccabi Tel Aviv trophy-presentation ceremony when Hapoel Eilat fell apart down the stretch enabling Maccabi to escape Eilat with an 89-85 victory.

Anybody who harbors any doubt over the outcome of Monday's scheduled Game 3 need only look at a tape of last night's final five minutes. With Eilat ahead 79-75, the southerners proceeded to give the game away. Meir Tapir (3-for-14 FGs) and Eddie Elisama took terrible shots and committed a slew of turnovers in the final minutes as the tandem — who many considered to be Eilat's top two players in the playoffs — self-destructed.

For the second game in a row, Amir Katz was Eilat's lone bright spot. The sharpshooter torched the nets for 30 points, including 5-for-7 from three-point range and 11-for-11 from the line.

Maccabi coach Vinko Jelovac paid Katz the ultimate compliment when, at one point, just before Katz was about to release a three-point attempt, Jelovac turned to the scorers table and asked for a timeout, without bothering to see if the shot would fall. His request was granted.

The bulk of Maccabi's scoring came from four players — Doron Sheffer, Oded Katash, Nadav Henefeld and Randy White — who each had at least 17 points. Sheffer led all scorers with 25 while playing like a coach on the floor, delivering several clutch field goals, while making sure to get his teammates involved.

Up until the final five minutes, the game had all the makings of a classic. Despite falling behind early, Eilat wouldn't fold. The southerners' tenacity throughout the second half only made their collapse towards the end all the more unexpected.

After the game, Jelovac commended Eilat, saying "We expected a tough game from Eilat, and they gave it to us."

They certainly did give it to Maccabi; and in more ways than one.

Fiji beat Samoa in rugby sevens final

By JOEL GORDIN

To the delight of hundreds of chanting fans, Fiji won the first Jerusalem International Rugby Sevens Tournament at Teddy Stadium last night, beating Western Samoa 24-19 in a thrilling final that ran into extra time.

Samoa had reached the finals after upsetting New Zealand 26-19 in the second semifinal, while Fiji earned the right to the final game after beating Australia 38-12. The All Blacks later defeated Australia 35-7 to take third place.

Spain won the Plate contest (bottom four) by notching a 29-5 win over Israel. Earlier, Israel had caused a major surprise by beating Wales 33-26. Wales eventually finished seventh, while Hungary, who failed to score a point throughout the tournament, were the wooden spooners.

The nailbiting, action-packed final climaxed a highly successful, superbly organized tournament that attracted more than 2,000 spectators on the second night, including a large contingent of flag-waving, singing Fijians, mostly soldiers serving the UN units in Lebanon, Jerusalem and Sinai.

Samoa opened the scoring against the run of play when Leamy Topoleafoa snatched a loose ball and made a successful run for the Fiji line (7-0). Fiji replied with two fine tries by the speedy Somilase Rokini and by captain Marike Vunibaka. One was converted, and Fiji led 12-7 at half-time.

After the interval, Samoa came back strongly and the repeated pressure on the Fiji line gave them two tries by Seamo Silioti and by Onehunga. One was converted to give the Samoans a 19-12 lead.

Fiji did not throw in the towel and two minutes before time, the long-legged Orike Kunakata took a long pass and ran the length of the field to touch down under the Samoan posts. His try was converted (19-19).

The sudden death extra time did not last long. The Samoans kicked off straight into the hands of Sisulu Rokini who ran through his seemingly frozen opponents defense to touch down for the winning try. His effort earned his team \$20,000 prize money, while Samoa walked away with \$10,000.

The evening had started on a positive note for local sevens rugby. Showing pluck and determination, Israel came back from a 26-21 deficit at halftime to snatch a 33-26 victory over Wales in extra time in the first plate semi-finals. Israel's two final tries that gave them the fine win were scored by James Whitemy, an English engineer living in Netanya. In the final of the plate competition, however, Israel were no match for Spain and were whipped 29-5.

The disappointment of the tournament was undoubtedly Australia. The much-vaunted Wallabies, fresh from a win in the Paris Sevens last week, just could not get their act together and were beaten 28-12 by Fiji in their first game and later 35-7 by New Zealand. Their captain David Campese only made brief cameo roles on the field and did not live up to his reputation as one of the greatest rugby players of all time.

CUP COMPETITION: Fiji 38, Australia 12; Samoa 26, New Zealand 19; New Zealand 35, Australia 7; Fiji 24, Samoa 19. **PLATE:** Israel 33, Wales 26; Spain 29, Hungary 5; Wales 54, Hungary 0; Spain 29, Israel 5.



TOUCHDOWN — An Australian scores a try in the semifinal contest against Fiji. The Fijians won 38-12 and then went on to top Samoa in the final 24-19 after extra time. (Brian Hendler)

Rhodes leads South Africa to
3-wicket win over England

LONDON (AP) — Jonty Rhodes ran out England's top scorer and then held his nerve with the bat to steer South Africa to a three-wicket victory in the first of three one-day internationals yesterday.

Rhodes, whose throw ended Nick Knight's innings of 64 in England's modest 223 for nine, was under pressure when spinner Robert Croft dismissed two batsmen in two balls and South Africa wobbled at 175 for six with overs running out.

He survived a loud stumping appeal off spinner Robert Croft, responded by hitting him over square leg for six and, with Lance Klusener contributing 22, scored an unbeaten 39 to edge South Africa towards victory with eight balls to spare.

It was South Africa's first one-day victory in England but seventh in a row over the English.

Jacques Kallis top scored for South Africa with 62 and captain Hansie Cronje hit 40 and Gerry Liebenberg 30 as the tourists took a 1-0 lead in the series. The teams meet again at Old Trafford tomorrow and Headingley on Sunday.

After starting with two half-century stands, England collapsed from 155 for two to 161 for six in 20 balls with left-hander Knight the first of those 4 wickets to go.

His dismissal was a blunder by Nasser Hussain, who pushed the ball to the on-side, called for a run and then changed his mind when he saw it headed for Rhodes.

Knight was already halfway towards the other end, turned and dashed back but was easily beaten by Rhodes' throw. It was one of three runouts as the South Africans excelled in the field, hurling themselves around the Oval boundaries to stop shots that were headed for fours.

Knight had shared in half-century partnerships with Alec Stewart, who made 27 before he played on to Allan Donald, and debutant Chris Adams, who scored 25 before he was caught by wicket-keeper Mark Boucher off Kallis.

After Knight's dismissal, another debutant, Darren Maddy was leg before to off spinner Pat Symcox for one, Hussain was then brilliantly caught by the diving Boucher off Donald for 27 and Mark Ealham was beaten by a stunning throw from the boundary by Pollock and went for one.

The recalled Chris Lewis was needlessly run out for 16 at 202 for seven when he played the ball straight to Darryl Cullinan and was beaten by the fielder's direct throw.

Van Exel: Lakers need
to get down and dirty

INGLEWOOD (AP) — The time has come, Nick Van Exel believes, for the Lakers to get down and dirty — just like the Utah Jazz.

Van Exel and several teammates, along with coach Del Harris, have questioned the tactics of the Jazz in the Western Conference finals.

Before the series, Harris brought up Utah's use of "veteran tricks," and said Jazz star Karl Malone committed flagrant fouls when he kicked his feet as he shot the ball.

After two Utah victories to open the best-of-7 series, Van Exel said the Lakers have to adjust to what the Jazz are doing when Game 3 is played tonight at the Forum.

"You have to play the way they play — kick, scratch, be dirty, hope the referees don't make the calls," Van Exel said after practice

Wednesday. "They're good at what they do, and they're dirty. They get away with a lot of cheap things."

Rod Hundley, the Jazz radio and television play-by-play announcer since the franchise was formed in New Orleans 24 years ago, created somewhat of a storm by saying the Lakers lack leadership.

Formerly, he was a player and broadcaster with the Lakers.

"(The Lakers) have more talent than anybody in the league, but they are too Hollywood to me," Hundley told the Los Angeles Times.

"They are not in control. They are not very organized. They are like the Globetrotters, everybody doing their own thing. I don't see too much togetherness there. (John) Stockton is our leader, but they don't have one."

Duncan 1st All-NBA
rookie since Bird

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Duncan has matched Larry Bird in one respect.

The 7-footer from San Antonio is the first rookie to be selected for the All-NBA team since Bird was picked in 1980.

Duncan, who earlier was named the league's Rookie of the Year, joined perennial picks Michael Jordan of Chicago and Utah's Karl Malone, along with two other first-time choices, Shaquille O'Neal of Los Angeles and Gary

Payton of Seattle.

Jordan, who won his fifth MVP award this week, and Malone, the runner-up for that award, each received the maximum 580 points with 116 first-team ballots from an international panel of writers and broadcasters. Each was picked on the first team for the 10th time.

Payton had 108 first-team votes and 561 points. O'Neal was picked for the first team on 103 ballots and had 544 points.

Duncan, the first rookie to make the team since Bird, received 45 first-team votes and 370 points. Just three weeks past his 22nd birthday, he is the second youngest All-NBA pick in history behind only Max Zaslofsky, who was 21 years and 4 months old when he was picked for the first All-NBA team in 1947.

The second team was composed of Detroit's Grant Hill (290) and Seattle's Vin Baker (269) at forward; San Antonio's David Robinson (332) at center; and Miami's Tim Hardaway (245) and Washington's Rod Strickland (173) at guard.

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DANGEROUS
DRIVING

The Israel Police Traffic Division has launched a new traffic enforcement campaign. Drivers caught driving in a manner that endangers life will have their drivers' licenses suspended on the spot. The driver will not be permitted to continue driving in his car; his license will be suspended on the spot for one month; and he will also have to stand trial. He will be allowed to ask a passenger to continue driving, or he will have to accompany the police officer to the nearest police station (if necessary, the car will be towed).

The traffic enforcement campaign will crack down on dangerous passing, ignoring a stop sign, failure to yield the right of way, overloading and speeding.

In the first stage, the campaign will be carried out by the Israel Police Traffic Division in selected areas in the northern and central regions.

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